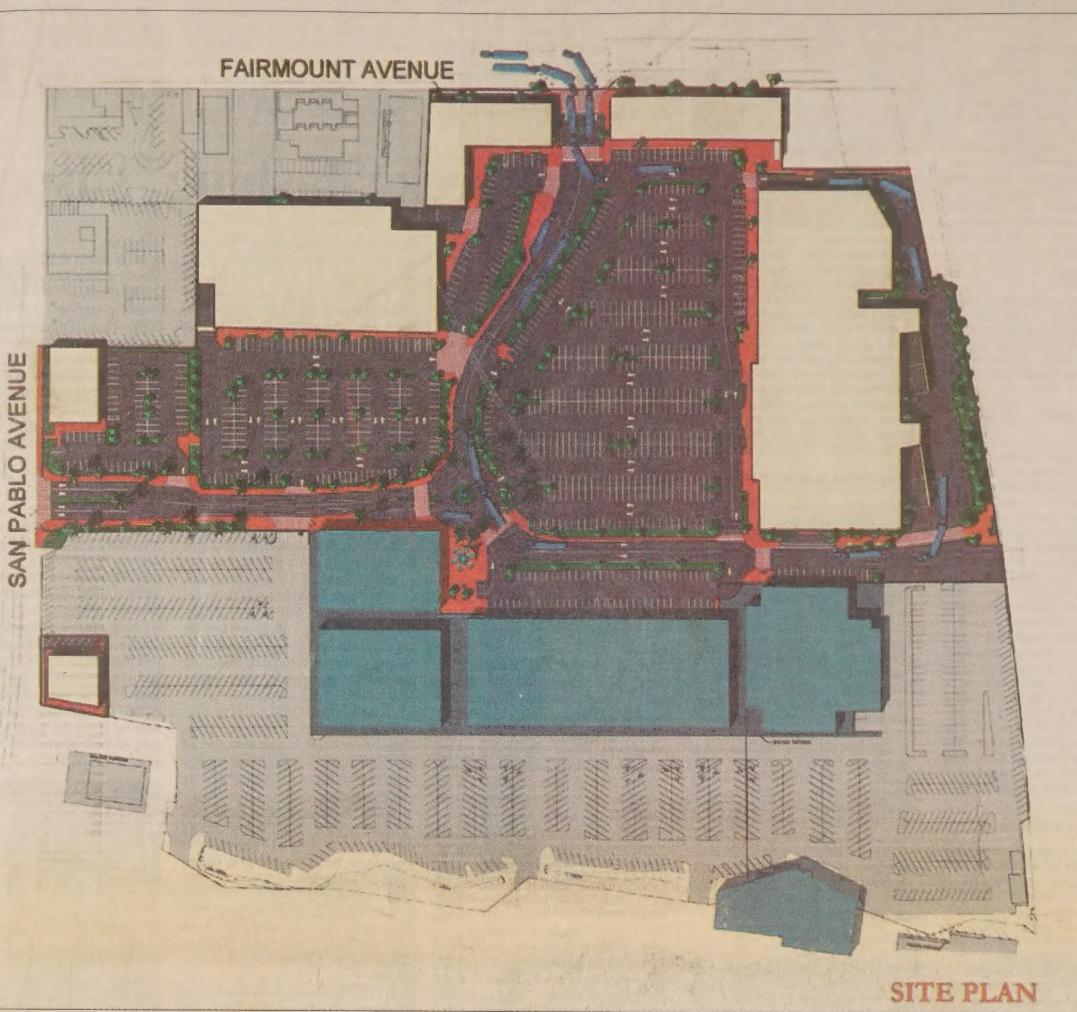


THE JOURNAL

April 22, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

Cityside Promotion gives library cards to EC second-graders [A3]

Arts Classic Festival of Animation opens Friday [C3]



Plaza unveils phase one plans

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — "We're not a big box power center a la Pinole Vista — we will have the components of the urban edge smaller type tenants — but we'll also have some big box tenants that are general retail types," explained consultant Ronald

Holley to describe the new Plaza as envisioned by the owners and their architects.

Holley, representing the principal Plaza owners at last week's Planning Commission meeting, presented phase one of the new Plaza site plan to the commission and about 27 members of the

public who attended the study session. Phase one concerns the northern half of the 33-acre Plaza property and includes a new 67,000-square-foot Lucky-Savon grocery/drug store and several smaller retail buildings.

Some commissioners seemed less than impressed with the new Plaza as

envisioned, but the body made no official decisions since the meeting was only a study session. A public hearing concerning necessary Planning Commission project approvals is tentatively scheduled for June 2.

See PLAZA, Page A12



Stockton Avenue store damaged in fire

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — A fire last week caused an estimated \$200,000 damage to

a Stockton Avenue shoe repair business. Four units responded to the fire last Friday and firefighter Hugh Henderson suffered second degree burns on both knees while entering the building to battle the blaze. A beauty shop next door in the same building suffered smoke and soot damage but no structural damage.

The fire at Star Shoe Shop started about 11 a.m., apparently when a portable fan shorted out and shoe repair material nearby quickly fed the flame. There were no human fatalities, but a pet bird and the shop owner's cat died from the fire and smoke. A witness to the fire has charged that the fire department took

too long to respond. Interim Fire Chief Mark Scott said there is an investigation about a possible three-minute delay at the Richmond dispatch center.

City Fire Department officials report the shoe shop suffered significant (but repairable) heat and smoke damage and a small residential apartment in the rear suffered smoke damage. "There was very little deep-seated structural damage," Scott said. The shop was closed and boarded up after the fire. Soot and smoke discoloration are evident above the door and windows outside the building.

Reflections Hair Design beauty shop suffered smoke damage to its inside ceil-

ings and walls, but was being cleaned up last Monday and planned to reopen later in the week.

"The flames just leaped quickly," shoe shop owner John Aguirre said in describing the fire that started when he turned on his portable fan. That morning, Aguirre was working with a type of glue thinner and there were other flammable shoe repair materials in the shop.

"It happened so quickly," he explained. "The flames started shooting immediately towards the edge of the counter," Aguirre added. He grabbed a towel from the bath-

See FIRE, Page A14

Earth Day not a passive affair in El Cerrito

Community ready to pitch in for citywide cleanup

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — This Saturday, more than 300 El Cerritans at more than 32 sites will be out in force picking up trash, pulling weeds, cleaning up city parks and having fun celebrating Earth Day the El Cerrito way.

After the work time, a traditional barbecue will be held at the Community Center on Moeser Lane. This year, a special emphasis will be El Cerrito High School. More than 100 students and scores of adults have signed up to plant trees, clean up and generally beautify the campus.

Mayor Gina Brusatori said Earth Day gives El Cerrito residents a chance to "meet our neighbors and do something positive for our community."

Brusatori also said she is proud that in El Cerrito "we celebrate the importance of the environment by joining together to plant trees, remove weeds and clean up creeks — we then recognize our good deeds by enjoying a wonderful barbecue lunch."

Focus on high school

On Saturday, the mayor will go from site to site visiting the various Earth Day work parties.

"What we do is — instead of having

See EARTH, Page A14

Dog owners howl over proposed park ban

By James Carter

ALBANY — The City Council chambers were packed by dog advocates April 19 gathered to challenge a proposal that would have prevented poodles from leaving puddles on athletic fields in town.

Canine owners kept supporters of the proposed ordinance at bay as the council unanimously voted to send the matter back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further review.

More than 40 residents attended Tuesday's meeting to make a case for the "rights of dogs and dog owners."

Speaker after speaker decried "the logic" of a proposal that would have banned dogs from athletic fields where children play and exercise and would have required that canines be kept on a leash in city parks.

Most residents who addressed the council strenuously defended the rights of residents — and their dogs — to use city parks. They also insisted that the majority of dog owners are responsible and pick up after their pets — so responsible, in fact, that many claimed they even pick up the droppings of other people's dogs.

A report prepared by city staff urging passage of the ordinance raised "health concerns that arise from youth exercising and playing sports on athletic fields which have been littered with feces and soiled with animal urine."

Johanna Fox, who described herself

See DOGS, Page A14

FBI investigating April 19 bank robbery in Albany

JOURNAL STAFF

ALBANY — An unarmed man robbed California Bank and Trust Friday, April 19, ordering the teller to give him large bills, including \$100s, \$50s and \$20s.

Albany police Lt. James Horn said the robber, described as a thin African-American male in his mid-20s or early 30s, waited in line before demanding the cash. The suspect, who wore a Camel cigarette cap, black jacket, white tee shirt

and blue jeans, escaped with over \$3,000 in bills.

According to Horn, the suspect was unarmed, presented no note and did not threaten the teller, a woman in her 20s, though he did caution her not to set off the alarm.

Police believe the accused bank robber may have committed two other hold-ups in the East Bay. As a consequence, the FBI is now involved in the investigation.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Cepeda in Albany

San Francisco Giants legend and recent Hall of Fame inductee Orlando Cepeda will be at Dave's Dougout, 863-B San Pablo Ave., on Saturday, April 24 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Purchase a copy of his new book "Baby Bull" (\$22.95) from Dave's Dougout and Cepeda will personally sign it. Cepeda will also sign other items for a fee. Photos up to 11-by-14 inches and baseballs are \$20 per item and premium items — bats, gloves, jerseys and larger photos are \$45 item. For details or to pre-order books, baseballs, bats or photos, call Dave's Dougout at 524-7120.

Kids' pennies to libraries

Young children will empty their piggy banks this week to bolster Contra Costa County libraries in honor of "The Week of the Young Child." All week, child care centers throughout the county will take kids and parents on library field trips to deliver pennies. In West County, about 50 children are expected at the El Cerrito Library at 10 a.m. today. The money will be used to purchase children's books. The penny drive is the first such event in the county and is sponsored by the Contra Costa Child Care Council and Lamorinda Advocates for Families. State cutbacks in library funds since 1990 have led to shortened hours and fewer librarians at county libraries, organizers noted.

Schools superintendent

The El Cerrito Democratic Club is hosting a panel discussion on "Challenges and Opportunities Affecting the West Contra Costa Unified School District, Including the Effect of Recent Legislation with new school Superintendent Gloria Johnston; United Teachers of Richmond; President Martin Drago; El Cerrito High School Principal Michael Aarion; and Assemblywoman Diane Aroner's West Contra Costa Field Representative Ardarius MacDonald. The panel, moderated by school board trustee Glen Price, is on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church 545 Ashbury (across from El Cerrito High School). Details: 525-5187.

Mosaic Arts Academy

The City of El Cerrito Youth Services located at 7007 Moeser Lane is presenting Mosaic Art Academy, "Charcoal & Pastels, Collage, Cartooning, and Kids Crafts." These four classes will be offered for youths age 6 to 14 years old. Classes will be held at Tassajara Clubhouse of El Cerrito Community Center. Details: Lisa, between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 215-4370.

Vista, MacGerror farewells

Vista and MacGregor Primary schools in Albany are scheduled to close in June and move to the "old" middle school site as Ocean View Elementary. Volunteers are needed to help with preparation of "Fond Farewell Parties" on May 23. If you have photos and/or can volunteer, contact Joan Post at 528-5250 or Adel Helmgren at 526-9062.

Community Center jobs

The City of El Cerrito is now accepting job applications for summer employment. Positions available include day camp and pool staff. Ages 15 through 17 years old must have a job permit, and there is volunteer work for those 12 to 14 years old. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. The center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details: 215-4370.



BANK SURVEILLANCE camera photo of the suspect.

Inept thief steals cable TV box

EL CERRITO — A teenage thief snatched a purse from a 76-year-old woman's shopping cart at noon April 1 as she walked down the BART path near Condon Avenue.

■ A 48-year-old woman was stopped by police as her automobile hobbled down San Pablo Avenue on a flat tire late at night April 3. She was arrested for driving under the influence.

■ A utilitarian stole the cable box of a home on the 6800 block of Gladys Avenue April 4 or 5. The thief apparently got his or her wires crossed and first cut the electrical cords leading to a sprinkler system and meter housing before severing the connections to the cable box and escaping with the booty.

■ On April 5, a thief apparently took the keys to a house located on the 6500 block of Central Avenue after the resident left them in the front door lock overnight. The victim told

police she heard someone climb the steps of her front porch at 6:30 p.m., open the screen door then leave. It was then that she realized her error according to the police report.

■ Sometime between April 5 and 6, a crook snipped the wires leading to a barbeque pole at Leon's Hair Cutters on San Pablo Avenue, removed screws securing it to the wall then ripped it off.

■ An 88-year-old woman ran off a teenaged burglar who broke into her locked garage on the 7300 block of Stockton Avenue April 9. The would-be thief escaped empty handed.

■ Two boys in their late teens burst through a kitchen window on the 900 block of Keaney Street at 3 p.m. April 9. However, before they could even get a leg up, the two young burglars hit the road in a hurry when the owner arrived.

■ At 12:35 p.m. April 9, a 17-year-

old girl piled \$203 of merchandise into a duffel bag at Target Store on San Pablo Avenue and stole it. She was arrested for shoplifting.

■ A 20-year-old woman was on a bench on San Pablo Avenue during the wee hours of the morning April 10 was questioned by police after officers were over the scent of alcohol and the woman was walking to San Pablo. The woman was arrested for public intoxication.

■ A burglar shattered the rear wing window of an automobile parked on the 900 block of Alameda Avenue (during the late night of April 12 or 13) then ransacked the car and escaped with a key ring.

Police seek "flashing" suspect

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 3:45 p.m. on April 15 an employee of the Albany Unified School District reported a disturbing incident. A subject described as an Asian male adult in his early 20s, who was clean shaven and wearing black pants and sunglasses, approached a 9-year-old boy in the Cornell School play yard, smiled at the child then exposed himself, also fondling himself. He then left in a dark colored older model car. The child's mother was inside the school building for a conference at the time. Police are investigating.

■ A resident on the 1000 block of Stannage Avenue reported that sometime between 1:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on April 11 someone attempted to pry open a window to his home and also damaged the lock on his back door. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of April 11 a Berkeley man reported that thieves stole his two-tone gray '85 Oldsmobile while it was parked in the North lot at Golden Gate Fields. There were no witnesses. At about 2 a.m. on April 13 Richmond police located the car but did not have anyone in custody. The car had been damaged and stripped. The owner was notified.

■ On the evening of April 11 a resident on the 1100 block of Marin Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into his green '89 Ford Mustang and attempted to hotwire it. They were unsuccessful at that so they stole the stereo and departed unscathed.

■ Just before midnight on April 14 Albany officers stopped a burgundy colored '88 Plymouth at El Cerrito Plaza for vehicle code violations. The driver, a 49-year-old Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the Field Sobriety Test and was arrested. He was cited and held, to be released when sober.

■ The passenger, a 33-year-old Oakland man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Alameda County for DUI in the amount of \$5,000. He was arrested and turned over to the Alameda County Marshal's office.

■ On the afternoon of April 15 a resident on the 800 block of Kains Avenue reported that thieves stole tools from his storage shed. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of April 16 a resident on the 800 block of Polk Street reported that during the night thieves stole his company truck, a purple '99 Dodge. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of April 16 an Albany woman reported that her son parked her blue Plymouth in front of Albany High School while attending classes. When he returned to the car he found that vandals had "keyed" obscene words in the driver's side window. There were no

witnesses.

■ At about 8:30 p.m. on April 16 Albany officers contacted a 16-year-old Albany boy who was entering Friendly Market on the 1100 block of San Pablo Avenue because he had just purchased alcohol from the store. He was arrested for being in possession of alcohol and drove home to his home and issued a Notice to Appear.

■ On the morning of April 17 a resident on the 1100 block of Marin Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into his green '89 Ford Mustang and attempted to hotwire it. They were unsuccessful at that so they stole the stereo and departed unscathed.

■ During the week of April 18 Albany officers towed two cars responded to seven false alarms attended to 10 lost or damaged animals, assisted 11 people who were locked out of their house or car responded to seven reports of missing dogs. In the domestic disturbances responded to one domestic dispute, one stand-by, 14 reports of disturbances and 76 Civil Complaints. Albany officers stopped 35 vehicles during 24 citations and 41 warnings. Albany firefighter-paramedics responded to three fire calls and medical emergencies.

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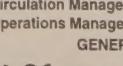
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EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

General Plan review

The draft of El Cerrito's General Update is now out for public review. Copies of the update are available for review at the Planning Office, or online at the city's web site www.ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Comments on these documents may be sent to the city by mail to the El Cerrito Planning Office, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito CA 94530; by fax at 233-5401; or by e-mail at planning@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Tuesday, June 1 is the tentative deadline set for the comment period on the draft EIR.

Comment can also be made in person at three public hearings:

- First public hearing by the Planning Commission on the draft General Plan and EIR on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 pm, City Council Chamber, the Community Center on Moeser

- Second Planning Commission public hearing on Wednesday, June 23 (tentative)

- Public Hearing by the City Council on the draft General Plan and EIR on Tuesday, July 6 (tentative).

Low-income home rehab loans

The Contra Costa County Housing Authority is offering 3 percent loans to rehabilitate lower income housing. Federal funds cover one half of the borrower's costs on rental housing units and repayment is required for 10 years. The borrower repays the principal and three percent simple interest in one lump sum after a 10-year term. A repayment extension of five additional years is possible. At the 3 percent simple interest rate, the borrower can loan \$10,000 today and pay back only \$3,000 at the end of 10 years. All areas of the county are eligible for these special improvement loans except the cities of Concord, Pittsburg and Richmond. Rental units must be vacant or rented to lower income families. Call Daley of the Housing Authority at (925) 372-7391 for more information.

Ed. Fund banquet

The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund will hold its 11th annual Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet Friday, May 14. Each year the Ed. Fund selects six inspiring teachers to honor at the banquet. "Virtually all of us can recall one special teacher in

— J.R. Deaton

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County 2nd graders become card-carrying library patrons

By J.R. Deaton

PINOLE — A \$25,000 check was presented to the county library, city mayors, county supervisors and the superintendent of schools recalled favorite childhood books and Mrs. Tognolin's second grade class got shiny brand new library cards. The Contra Costa Reads 2000 program got a rousing send off last week at the Pinole Library in West Contra Costa County. The goal of the program is to provide every second-grader in the county with a county public library card by the end of the year 2000.

El Cerrito Mayor Gina Brusatori was on hand for the kick-off as was Pinole's Mayor Maria Alegria, and county supervisors Gayle Uilkema and John Gioia. Acting County Librarian Anne Cain, West Contra Costa Unified School District Superintendent Gloria Johnston and El Cerrito-Pinole Senior Branch Librarian Janet Hildebrand also attended the event.

Lou Rosas, Director of External Affairs for Pacific Bell, presented Supervisors Uilkema and Gioia with a check for \$25,000 to be used to facilitate the Contra Costa Reads 2000 effort.

"An amazing thing happened to me at this book fair when I was in second grade," Superintendent Johnston told the 22 children attending the event. "I picked up this book — and it was a really sort of weird book — it was about that thing named Horton." The kids all recognized Dr. Seuss' story about Horton and his egg-hatching adventures and Johnston had captured their attention. "I opened it up and I started to read that book," she recalled. "I was turning the pages and reading the words and suddenly it dawned on me



EL CERRITO MAYOR Gina Brusatori, surrounded by happy 2nd graders, signs her library card

— I'm a reader — I can just pick up a book I've never seen before in my whole life and I can read it."

Contra Costa Reads 2000 is trying to make readers out of all the second-graders in the county. The program, sponsored by the county library in partnership with local schools and Pacific Bell, aims to provide the 11,100 second-graders in the county with a library card by the end of the year 2000. Students will receive a library orientation, a library card and a free "early reader" book. More than 122 elementary schools and 596 second grade classes in the county will be participating in the program.

The \$25,000 will fund the early reader books and pay for substitute librarians to keep the libraries open when regular staff are out visiting students in their classrooms.

Supervisor Uilkema called the program "a model public-private partner-

ship." Uilkema said Pacific Bell has been a "strong supporter of Contra Costa County" and that "frankly this effort goes above and beyond the call of duty." Demonstrating sleight of hand, Uilkema "magically" pulled her new library card from her jacket sleeve and showed it to the assembled students. "I want you to love your library card because it opens up a whole new world to you," she told the young readers.

Phone plan calls for new digits in 510 area

By George Avalos

The latest addition to the East Bay phone numbers game is 341.

That's the new area code which will be added within the existing 510 area code in the region west of the Oakland-Berkeley hills along Interstate 80. The new code takes effect June 15.

A telecommunications group also said that the 628 area code will be added within the existing 415 territory. That starts Oct. 21.

Until recently, California area codes were added by a geographic split of an existing phone number territory. Under the system that will be used for the

510 area, called the overlay method, a second area code is added in the same geographic area and the original area code is retained for existing numbers.

The changes mean telephone customers must dial 11 digits when making any calls inside the 510 or 341 territory.

Existing numbers in the 510 region will retain that area code. But new customers for local phone service, wireless phones, pagers and alarm systems will start receiving numbers with a 341 area code sometime after June 15, depending on how long the supply of 510 numbers lasts. Several factors have fueled the economic appetite that has

gobbled up phone numbers and area codes at a rapid pace, according to Joe Cocke, a senior official for the organization that handles area code assignments.

"Businesses are expanding and needing additional phone numbers," Cocke said. "There is also a need for second and third phone lines in the home, and for more wireless services."

The dizzying expansion of the Internet also has driven the number hunger.

But some officials say overlays are the best way to address the consumption of existing phone numbers.

Other industry insiders, though, question the use of overlays.

"The consumers I've talked to don't like the idea of having to dial the extra numbers," said Simone Penney, principal owner of Sunlight Communications, a telephone consultancy in San Ramon. "Both businesses and consumers like it the way it is."

The overlay system means it's possible a single city block even the same home could contain two different area codes. The overlay will not alter existing costs of phone calls.

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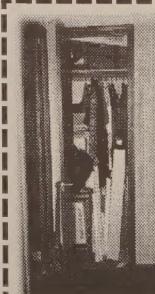
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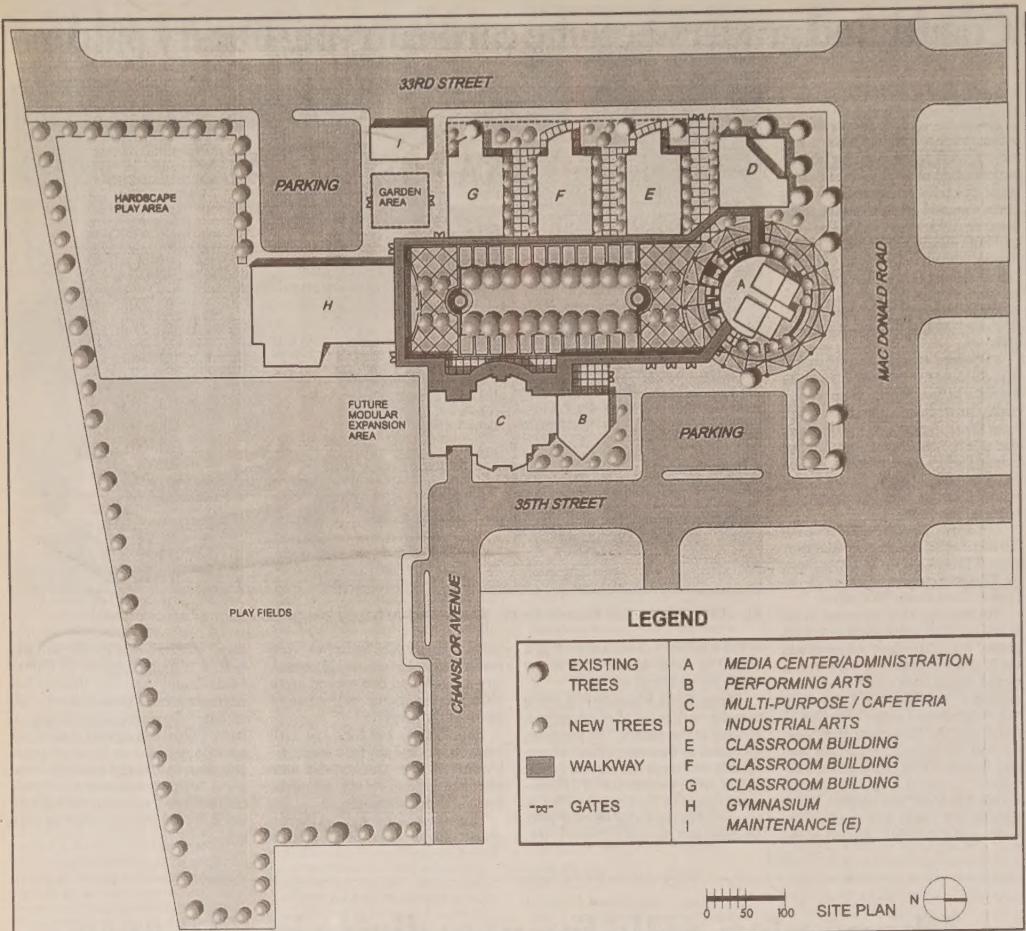
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Proposed middle school layout

AT PRESSTIME the West Contra Costa Unified School District board was considering several options for the layout of the new Richmond Middle School to be built with funds from last year's Measure E bond election. The design pictured above is the recommendation of a panel composed of parents, principals, teachers, classified employees and community members.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

Albany PTA Council

April 26, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., a.m.s Library

Albany High School

■ SCRIP Orders: Support AHS by buying Safeway, Andronico's or Lucky certificates. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429

■ April 25, Athletic Boosters Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Marin School

■ April 28, Career Day, 9:20-11:45 a.m., AHS

■ April 28, Open House/Book Fair, 7-9 p.m., AHS

■ May 2, East Bay College Fair, 1-5 p.m., St. Mary's College

Albany Middle School

SCRIP Orders: Support a.m.s by

buying Safeway certificates. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Janet Nichols at 526-6259

■ April 21-23, Book Fair, AMS Library

■ April 22, Open House, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Book Fair in AMS Library

■ May 6-8, Spring Musical

Cornell Elementary School

April 29, Open House, 7 p.m., Cornell School

Marin Elementary School

April 29, Open House, 7 p.m., Marin School

Vista-MacGregor Primary School

■ SCRIP Sales: Wednesday mornings before school, or call Meiling Lincoff at 524-5129.

■ April 22, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.,

Vista Room 10. Topics: Transition to Ocean View School for 1999-2000 School Year, Questions Regarding Pesticides in Gill Tract.

■ May 6, Vista Open House, 7 p.m., Vista

■ May 13, MacGregor Primary Open House, 7 p.m., MacGregor

Albany Citizens Parcel Tax Committee

April 21, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 1604 Solano Ave., Albany (Law Office of Robert Cheasty). VOTE YES

on Measure A on June 8! Save Albany's Strong Schools

July 4 at Memorial Park

Fundraising booths available to local groups. Contact Jon Ely at City Hall.

AUSD Board of Education

April 27, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or email: kayweinstein@ya-hoo.com

Get tickets now for ECH Casino Night fundraiser

El Cerrito High School's sixth annual "Casino Night" fund-raiser will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, May 7 at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

This is El Cerrito High's only all-school fundraising event held in support of the school.

Casino Night is sponsored by the Friends of El Cerrito High School, under the auspices of the non-profit West Contra Costa Public Education Fund. The event is for adults only, with requested ticket donations of \$25 or \$45 for two.

Proceeds in the past have gone toward scholarships to deserving graduating seniors, equipment purchases, and grants to staff for enrichment programs the District does not fund.

Members of the community, ECHS parents, and alumni are encouraged to attend Casino Night for an evening of fun and to show their support for ECHS.

Games of chance such as blackjack, craps, and roulette will be the main feature of the event. Ticket donations include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and scrip for use at the gaming tables. Additional scrip may be purchased and prizes awarded throughout the evening.

Businesses and individuals have also been available. Prizes obtained from local restaurants to accommodate packages at Harvey's Lake Tahoe and the Reno Hilton. Casino tables are run by professionals and instruction is provided for gamblers so everyone is welcome.

Sponsorships for gaming are \$200 each, and prizes range from gift certificates to merchandise. Those interested in serving tickets, sponsoring or donating prizes contact the Casino Night chairman, 654-4444. Advance ticket sales are still needed to make the event a success.

Proceeds from the Casino Night will be used to support ECHS parents and alumni in a social setting. The money is used to support the school and its programs.

Teen Center flea market

ALBANY — The City of Albany Bill Lewis Teen Center is currently accepting reservations for booth spaces for their "Cleaning out the Cobwebs" Flea market. The flea market will take place on Saturday May 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The flea market is a great opportunity to sell collectibles, and look for new ones. Last year over 2000 people attended the sale.

WEST COUNTY SCHOOL WATCH

WCCUSD and impact of education legislation

By Glen Price

The El Cerrito Democratic Club presents a panel discussion on the impact of recent State of California education legislation on the West County school district.

Panelists will include Dr. Gloria Johnston, Superintendent, WCCUSD; Marta Dragos, President, United Teachers of Richmond; Mike Aaronian, Principal, El Cerrito High

School; and Ardarius Macias, West County field representative.

All members of the public are warmly invited.

The event will take place at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. (across from El Cerrito High School), on April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

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- Live Performances •

12:00 An Invocation of the Muse
12:15 Berkeley City Council sings
12:30 Actor's Ensemble presents "Sylvia"
12:45 Berkeley Community Chorus
1:00 Hook Up — kitchen gamelan
1:15 So. Berkeley Senior Tap Dancers
1:30 The Jazzschool Students
1:45 Miguel Frasconi's Glass Instruments
2:00 Savage Dance Company
2:30 Shotgun Theater presents
Man & Superman

2:45 Pacific Mozart Ensemble
3:00 Sabah Ensemble
3:15 Capoeira Arts Cafe performers
3:30 Shakespeare in 15 minutes
3:45 Bicycle Ballet
4:00 Recycled Instrument Orchestra
4:15 Berkeley Folk Dancers
4:30 UC Madrigal Singers
4:45 Choro Time — Brazilian 40s Band

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Albany students get a sweet deal from AEF

Festivities were also sweet for the Albany Education Foundation, which will hit its \$50,000 fundraising goal

By James Carter

ALBANY — Children of all ages were treated to bowls of ice cream and a taste of the AHS musical theater and choir program April 18 at the Albany Education Foundation's annual ice cream social.

And it was a sweet deal.

As a gesture of gratitude for generous contributions to this year's fund-raising drive — one that is expected to achieve their goal of \$50,000 — the foundation did not charge people to attend the event, one held at the Albany Community Center.

Eight-year-old Danny Levy may not have understood the reason for the gathering, though it is one he will undoubtedly remember. Pausing between spoonfuls of vanilla ice cream, strawberries, cookies and sprinkles, Danny explained the other reason he was there.

"Our class is performing today," he said. "We're going to be singing different songs." Danny's favorite is Follow the Drinking Gourd, he said, though at the moment ice cream and fixins' required his full attention.

Soon Danny joined a troupe of third-graders from Cornell School as they entertained the audience with songs.

A short time later, members of the AHS Musical Theater performed classic pieces from movies and Broadway. Many of the very same children that performed earlier — joined by others and adults — sat mesmerized during the exuberant act. The AHS Choir likewise enthralled their audience with songs sang in three different languages.

Support for Albany schools

Dedicated to maintaining the quality of the city's schools and enriching them all the more, the AEF — a community-based, non-profit organization, provides generous grants to a wide variety of programs that otherwise might fall to the wayside.

According to outgoing president

and executive director Sally Outis, the foundation has provided financial support to music programs in the district, as well as the arts, sciences, and a host of mini-grants for individual teachers and classes.

At Marin School, for example, the AEF funded a garden where students, teachers and parents grow flowers and vegetables.

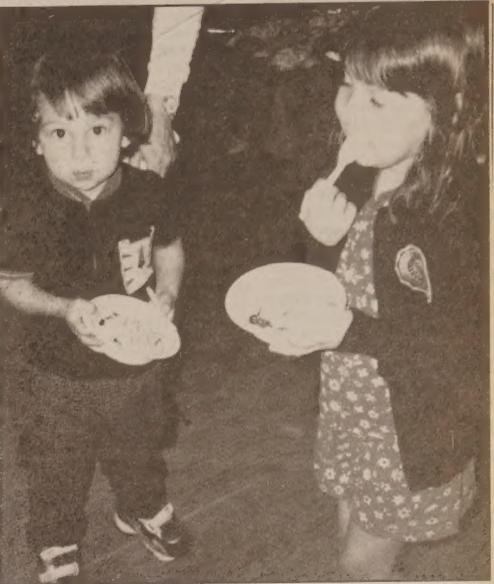
Besides the lessons children can learn from the garden, Outis said "another wonderful thing about it is that those participating will say, 'here, take this home.' So students get to eat the fresh vegetables they have grown which is a really wonderful thing."

Newly-elected President Diane McNenny said she hopes to "carry on the goals of the foundation" during her term in office.

On Sunday, the AEF "did not charge people to participate" in the social, McNenny said. "We wanted to give a gift to the community to thank them for their support" over the years. A former member and president of the AUSD Board of Education, McNenny said she was happy with the turnout on Sunday and the generous contributions supporters before and during the program.

Outis was particularly grateful for large contributions made by several local merchants, including Christopher Cheung, owner of Christopher's Cafe. Cheung sponsored a brunch at his restaurant to raise funds for the foundation. Outis said there were "so many people to thank that I know I'll accidentally leave many out," yet pointed to support received from Joyce Printing, City Bank and Mechanics Bank, all of which she said made generous contributions.

In the meantime, parent volunteers and others took turns scooping ice cream and dishing out cookies. Though Joan Larson was fighting a cold, there since early morning where she and others prepared all the goodies and decorated the center with helium-filled balloons.



JAMES CARTER

CORNELL SCHOOL students Eva Rentinger, 6-1/2, and Ana Rentinger, 8, enjoy ice cream at the Community Center.

loons. And as she bounced around from the kitchen to the center, deftly as the children. For information about AEF: 524-7797.



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CREDIT

Lucile Bogue, 88, honored

By J.R. Deaton

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Lucile Bogue poem—Affair of the Heart.

am in love!

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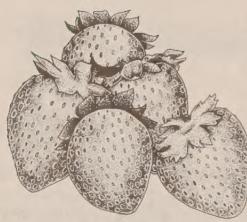


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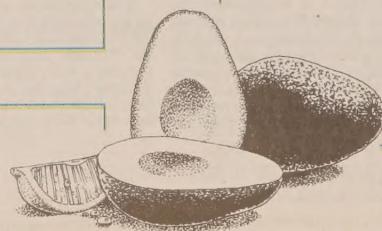
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IN BRIEF

Water Fitness instructors course Sunday in Albany

Water fitness is one of the fastest growing fitness activities throughout the country. John R. Spannuth, president of the United States Water Fitness Association with headquarters located in Boynton Beach, Florida, indicates that the top 100 fitness programs in the country for 1998 each average more than one thousand different participants per year in their water exercise classes. Because of this tremendous growth, water fitness instructors are hard to find.

The National Certification Course for Water Fitness Instructors will be held at the Albany Pool in Albany, on Sunday April 25 from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The course is open to any person 18 years of age or older who has an interest in being a water fitness instructor. Persons who are currently teaching, but do not have the credentials, are strongly encouraged to attend.

An advanced course will also be held on the same day for individuals

who either have a current water exercise instructors certification, and have taught more than two years and a minimum of 100 hours, or have a minimum of three years experience teaching water exercise and at least 150 hours of actual experience teaching water exercise. For more information contact Peggy McQuaid at 559-6640 or contact the United States Water Fitness Association National Headquarters at PO Box 3279 Boynton Beach, FL 33424 (561) 732-9908.

Library Senior Day program

"May Senior Day" at Albany Library, will be May 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. A one-hour film, "Touring New Zealand," will cover over 100 historic, scenic and cultural sites on both the North and South Islands will visit bustling Auckland known as the "City of Sails." The capital, Wellington, is located on a magnificent harbor; with its hills and cable are, it is reminiscent of San Francisco.

Republican Women's Club meets

The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will be having its monthly luncheon meeting at the Iva Vista Country Club, 2900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito on April 28. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and social hour will be at noon.

This will be a spring fun event which is called "Caring Collections." Members will bring interesting collectibles of historical or artistic interest and the members will describe the background of the items.

For reservations call Betty Christoper, 237-4152. Lunch is \$10. Deadline April 24. However, sometimes last minute calls may be taken on Monday before the event.

EC Art Show and Sale

The El Cerrito Art Association presents its 1999 Art Show and Sale at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, for three days beginning April 30, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The show continues on Saturday May 1

from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday May 2 from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact the chairperson for the show Nyuan Jeung 843-2037. The El Cerrito Art Association meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Center. Members share art events, exhibits and listen to guest speakers. For more information contact John Os-hiro, membership 526-1127.

Local students on Poetry Slam stage in Berkeley

This year's high school Poetry Slam will hit the main stage at 7 p.m. April 26 at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St. Jolly good news for devotees of this widespread and growing combination of literary endeavor and performance art. And, best of all, as usual the admission is free.

For those not familiar with the concept, rest easy. It's not as politically incorrect as it sounds. Nobody is slamming poetry as such. Heavens! Might as well pounce on apple pie. No, a "poetry slam" is a team sport — to use the athletic word rather loosely.

Teams of poets from Berkeley, El Cerrito, Skyline and Oakland high schools and possibly others will take part in live, competitive poetry readings. Unlike last year, when versions of literary and historical half-nelsons threw Shakespeare to the mat, poems for this outing will be contestants' original compositions.

"We are expecting about 40 poets," said Cliff Mayotte, education director of Berkeley Rep's Hilde Mosse Programs for Education. The slam is a joint presentation of the Rep's program and Berkeley High's Communication Arts and Sciences Program and Computer Academy.

Hilde Mosse was a dedicated and lifelong child psychologist on the East Coast, Mayotte says. The foundation bearing her name funds a substantial portion of the poetry slams and other Berkeley Rep theatrical and educational projects in the area.

Here's what to expect, as Mayotte describes it: "The poets are divided into teams. The teams compete against each other. We choose panels of judges from the audience for each round. The individual team members

deliver their poems. There's a three-minute time limit. The judges rate their performances by holding up cards they have marked. It's sort of like the Olympics."

The top prize is \$100. Two runners-up prizes are worth \$50 apiece.

How do you score a poet com-

ming with his or her muse?

"Partly, it's on the content of the poem, partly, it's on the delivery, the performance," Mayotte said. "And some of these kids really pull out all the emotional stops. It's very free-form."

Poetry slams have been around for a number of years, starting in such major cities as New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. The idea is spreading rapidly, Mayotte said. Berkeley Rep has been holding its slam with East Bay schools for 15 years, usually with not much fanfare.

"This year we are expecting a full house," Mayotte said. The Berkeley Rep seats 400. I would advise anybody who plans to attend to make reservations."

Details: Berkeley High Arts and Science Program, 644-4586.

Dining & Entertainment

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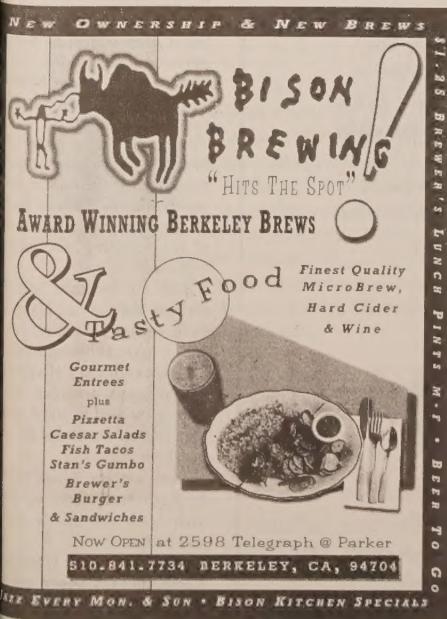
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On Sunday, April 25, The Blue Fairy flies over from Fairyland for a 2 p.m. performance.

Also, every Saturday starting April 3, the Julia Morgan Center offers Theatre Rats Saturday Camp. Kids age 6 1/2 to 13 can participate in singing, dancing, acting, swimming, and having fun! Prices are \$35 for one day or \$120 for four sessions.

On April 17, watch for our camp fair presenting information on a variety of summer camp programs all over Berkeley.

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Senior Living

Advertising Feature

What's new at The Altenheim

On Sunday, April 18, 1999, the Altenheim presented its premier Piano Concert, which was both instrumental and vocal, showcasing our new baby grand piano.

At right, you will see the concert program with the music of J. S. Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and other illustrious composers.

This particular concert was a Celebration! We acquired a new baby grand piano and it will be the beginning of many future piano concerts. The series of concerts will be announced to our readers as soon as the dates are selected.

The Altenheim is delighted! We have seen much of the refurbish-

ing of our charming building, 'Life Line communicating system' for our residents, beautiful gardens for all to enjoy and many wonderful people are willing to volunteer their services inside the building as well as tending our garden. This has added so much, and yet, our prices remain affordable.

Don't wait too long, the rains are almost over and we would love to have you visit us. Call Penny Graff, Director of Marketing at (510) 530-4013.



Concert for New Grand Piano

Program for April 18, 1999

Preludio in C.....	J.S. Bach
Ave Maria.....	J.S. Bach - Charles Gounod
Sonata in A (Spring Sonata).....	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Impromptu, Opus 90, Number 4, in A- flat.....	Franz Schubert
"Kiss of Fire".....	Robert Hill
"You Go To My Head".....	J. Fred Coots
"It's All Right With Me".....	Cole Porter
"Falling In Love Again".....	Friedrich Hollander
"By Strauss".....	George Gershwin
Waltz from "The Merry Widow".....	Franz Lehár
Italian Street Song.....	Victor Herbert
"Tonight" from West Side Story.....	Leonard Bernstein
"Komm in den kleinen Pavillon".....	Franz Lehár
"Out of My Dreams" from Oklahoma.....	Rogers & Hammerstein
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often as I can, but it just like they needed more.

They had more medical appointments which needed to be arranged, and they needed getting there safely.

Then it happened: my dad had to be hospitalized, and we could not make it on his own.

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She arranged for a caregiver to come the next morning & Dad with his breakfast and medications, make sure he took a shower safely, got dressed, was ready for the day.

The caregiver also drove to the hospital to visit my dad and brought him home and prepared his evening meal.

We agreed he would be on night on his own. The caregiver also did grocery shopping, dry and light housekeeping was like an angel to him.

This arrangement was perfect so relieved that he was being well cared for. When it was time for Mom to come home, the nurse came to evaluate her needs.

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Art (far left) on the Cal crew in 1931.
Dorothy's graduation picture, 1937.

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look at The Hillside Club and its newest president

Eleanor Weigand is the 79th president of The Hillside Club in Berkeley. As with other members I have seen, she is very devoted to the organization, what it does and what it stands for. And our conversation, as you will see, ranged over the very interesting history of The Hillside Club and its present day activities.

In addition, we spoke of Eleanor and herself, and her very interesting history and what she has done and still does today. So this is a two-part report, which I always enjoy. The Hillside Club is celebrating its 100th year. Interestingly, enough, and told me, the Town and which is a somewhat similar building, in somewhat the

same area, is also celebrating 100 years. So it is obvious that 100 years ago in Berkeley the citizens felt a need for an organization to bring together the people of the city and the university, and, in the case of The Hillside Club, to make sure the city of Berkeley is different and attractive.

And the club evolved into a social club with many activities and events. They have dinners, Christmas ceremonies, concerts, dances, a hiking section, a performing arts section, a fine arts section, a bridge section, a literary section, and meetings when all members get together, with, of course, a committee in charge of flowers and one in charge of refreshments. "Hillside Club members always love to eat." They also have a very active section on tours, some day tours, some lasting five or six days.

Maybeck did their first house, which burned down in the 1923 Berkeley fire. Their present home on Cedar Street, their second building, has a kitchen as well as a big auditorium/ballroom for cotillions. Downstairs they have dressing rooms and a collection of vintage costumes that the curator of textiles of the Oakland Museum has been interested in.

The Hillside Club is located at 2286 Cedar Street in Berkeley. The telephone number is 848-3227.

Weigand joined about 15 years ago, becoming active in the performing arts section, and in the extravaganzas, which she conceived and directed for four years. For Eleanor Weigand is a dancer and a choreographer. She has done the choreogra-

phy for some of the productions of the Contra Costa Civic Theater and, she notes, her daughter Maris is doing the choreography for the current production of "Gypsy."

Eleanor was born in Santa Cruz, coming to the Bay Area when she was 8 years old. She started dancing at the age of 5, "and never stopped." She went to school in Berkeley, and all three of her daughters went to the same school she had attended, Thousand Oaks. She graduated from UC. She had the three daughters and was teaching when she decided to go for her Master's. She earned her credential to teach at the college level.

She married an attorney she met at Cal. Clarke, a graduate of Bolt Hall practiced law in Oakland until his

Community Folks

By Clara Rae Genser

passing, and, she says, was most supportive of her dance activities. In fact, he did most of the business and work associated with it. She had a studio on the second floor of their home on the Alameda for 40 years, where she taught dancing. She has lived in El Cerrito for 12 years. For years she has taught dancing at the Pacific Academy, a private school on Carlson, started and run by the Nomura family (her grandson is now helping to teach hip-hop there.)

"Dancing has been my life" she says, and speaks of dancing all around in the area, including doing some night club work, as well as in Woodminster, in San Francisco and

See GENSER, Page A12

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St Paul's Towers on Lake Merritt Music takes center stage

April is another busy month at St. Paul's Towers, the gracious full Life Care retirement community overlooking scenic Lake Merritt. This month, residents enjoy a series of special programs that highlight their diverse musical interests.

On Sunday, April 4, Pianist William Oden captivated an appreciative audience in St. Paul's Towers comfortable lounge with a recital that featured beloved classical pieces and jaunty American ragtime tunes.

Then, on Monday, April 19, the Laney College Chorale performed an evening program of classic songs and African-American spirituals.

On Friday, April 30, St. Paul's Towers presents a tribute to Duke Ellington, one of the 20th century's most innovative jazz pianists, composers and bandleaders. This engaging afternoon social will highlight some of Ellington's best-loved works from his illustrious career,

including the captivating "Mood Indigo."

These are just a few examples of the many outstanding planned events that St. Paul's Towers residents enjoy all year long. Every month there is a full calendar of special programs, day trips and art, fitness and recreation classes.

St. Paul's Towers also residents enjoy many recreational and social activities in the surrounding community. Picturesque Lake Merritt is an ideal backdrop for invigorating walks, lawn bowling and birdwatching.

The Oakland museum, the historic Paramount Theatre of the Arts, Jack London Square and many other cultural attractions are just minutes away.

The charming cafes, excellent restaurants and service establishments of fashionable shopping areas such as Piedmont Avenue, Rockridge, Grand Avenue and Lakeshore are also nearby.

Residents can relax in the privacy of their own comfortable apartments or join friends in St. Paul's Towers gracious lounge, library, or art and music rooms. They enjoy three delicious and nutritious meals served daily by courteous and attentive wait staff in St. Paul's Towers elegant dining room. Weekly housekeeping and linen services, utilities and local phone service are all included in one monthly fee.

St. Paul's Towers residents are also assured comprehensive lifetime medical care as part of their full Life Care agreement, on-site medical offices are open daily for scheduled appointments, and St. Paul's Towers' doctors are on call 24 hours a day.

Skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitative services are also available. Hospitalization, if required, is always covered.



The Spizzwinks, the famous male chorus from Yale University performed at St. Paul's Towers during its recent west coast tour.

St. Paul's Towers is a nondenominational community owned and operated by the Episcopal Homes Foundation, a not-for-profit leader in providing full Life Care for over 33 years. To learn more about this vital community, to attend an informational open house, or to schedule a personal tour, call Karon Sullivan at (510) 465-5981

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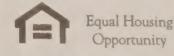
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Grand Lake Gardens is owned and operated by American Baptist Homes of the West, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit company serving seniors through quality retirement housing since 1949. State of California License #011400246.

'99 Directory/Shopping Guide listing available to all

There is still time for anyone doing business here — both in established stores and offices and from home-based operations — to qualify for a listing in the soon-to-be published 1999 Chamber of Commerce Business Directory and Shopping Guide.

Bill Kerber, president of the El Cerrito business group, announced this week that the only requirement to get a listing in the new guide would be a paid up full or associate membership in the Chamber of Commerce.

"We're very excited about this new directory," Kerber said. "It promises to be one of the most attractive guides we've every put out."

Produced by the Courtland Publishing Company it will be in an 8-1/2- by 11-inch magazine format with color on every page and will be printed on glossy paper. In addition to a center section listing all chamber members in good standing by category of product or service, the '99 Directory will include the city's vital statistics as well as sections covering schools, churches, clubs and recreational facilities as well as a description of the Chamber's mission.

In urging businesspersons interested in being listed in the guide to contact the Chamber office at (510) 233-7040 about membership as soon as possible, Kerber added: "Over the years the Directory and Shopping Guide has been one of the best marketing tools we offer our members. Not only is it vital in promoting local business, it also plays a key role in attracting new customers from out of town."

"The Chamber is always getting requests for the type of information contained in the Directory from people planning to move their home or business to El Cerrito. Daily we recommend businesses listed in the Directory to people who write, phone in or visit our office at 10484 San Pablo Ave."

The Chamber president went on to point out, by acting fast, those wanting a listing could also qualify for the opportunity to further promote their business with a display ad in the Shopping Guide.

The deadline for reserving adver-

tising space is Friday, April 30," Kerber warned. "Those who take advantage of this opportunity for extra exposure will not only attract more business, but they'll be helping to cover the cost of printing and distributing the new publication."

He went on to report that over 50 local individuals and firms had already reserved space in the display advertising section of the guide, and advised those interested in also doing so to telephone the Chamber office immediately at 233-7040.

A partial list of those who have already pledged to advertise in the '99 Directory includes:

El Cerrito Plaza Merchants Association, Fastserv Medical, The Junket, Plaza Auto Service, Norge Cleaners, Bank of the West, Tulip Floors, El Cerrito Heating and Sheet Metal, El Cerrito Lighting, Cardservice International, Bending Willow School, Al Caruso Insurance, Sunset View Cemetery, Pacific Academy Preparatory Preschool.

Olivero Plumbing, Freeway Motel, El Cerrito Mill and Lumber Co., Trade-way Furniture, Pastime Ace Hardware, Mail Boxes Etc., Foley and Bonny, Full Circle Travel, Bank of America, Reem Pharmacy, Evergreen Alternative Medicine, Super Print, Winslow Carpet Cleaning, East Bay Sanitary Co., Charles Weaver CPA, Larry Seidell Chevron Service.

Also, Pet/Vet Petfood, Granter's Jewelry and Loan Connor's Overhead Doors, Marvin Collin Construction, Marvin Gardens Real Estate, The Mechanics Bank, Abbey Carpet, Honda of El Cerrito, Primerica Financial Services, Speed Oil Change, Vacuum World, El Cerrito Jewelers, Leslie Insurance Services, Tobacco Outlet Muffler Works.

El Cerrito-Albany Masonic Lodge, Contra Costa Private Industry Council, Antiques and Upholstery, HD Pool & Patio, McDonald's of El Cerrito, and Berndt Landscape and Garden Maintenance.

Chamber Membership Grows

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Glinternick

Membership in the El Cerrito Chamber continues to show strength with the addition of one new member, a former member rejoining, and four current members reinvesting in the organization for another year.

Newest firm to join the Chamber is Single Cylinder Repair, which opened recently at 10368 San Pablo Ave.

Owned and operated by Trung Pham, the company specializes in the sale and service of outdoor power equipment such as string trimmers, blowers, chain saws, hedge trimmers and Rototillers. Business hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Rejoining the El Cerrito Chamber after an absence of almost four years was the More Car Co., formerly located here but now doing business at 3635 San Pablo Dam Road in El Sobrante. Owned by Rich Weyeneth, the company first joined in 1977 and was active in the organization until relocating in 1995.

The Chamber wishes to thank Bending Willow School, The Glenn, Pre-Paid Legal Services and Shield's Nursing Center for their support by reinvesting in this organization for another year.

Circus Coming to El Cerrito

Circus Chimera, the multi-million dollar theatrical spectacular which drew rave reviews and large crowds here last year, is coming back to El Cerrito for a five-day run starting May 20.

Sponsored by the El Cerrito Plaza Co. and the Plaza Merchants Association, members of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, the Show will once again be staged in a 1,800-seat tent erected in the parking lot of the

local shopping center.

A spokesman for Circus Chimera reports that this year's show will feature a number of new young performers—including one who is just three years old.

Highlighting this new presentation, according to the circus official, will be the Flying Luna Family — featuring a set of twins who are the youngest people ever to successfully complete a quadruple somersault.

Once again Circus Chimera will offer classic circus arts performed by world-class artists, combined with state of the art lighting and sound, Broadway choreography, innovated costumes and a special musical score.

Race Tickets Available

Tickets for the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce's "Day at the Races" on Wednesday, May 19, are still available, and may be reserved by telephoning (510) 233-7040.

Costing \$35 per persons the tickets will entitle the holder to valet parking, admission to the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club and a sit-down luncheon in the VIP Directors' room.

Annual Art Show scheduled

The El Cerrito Art Association, an Associate Member of the Chamber of Commerce, will hold its 23rd Annual Free Public Art Show and Sale on April 30, May 1 and May 2 at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

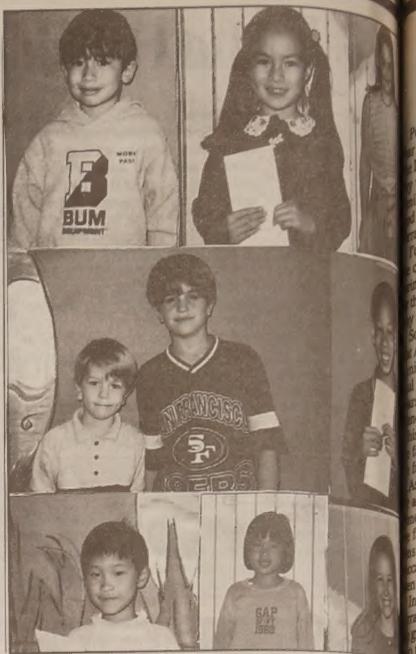
Exhibited will be art work in the seven following categories: Oil and Acrylic; Watercolor; Collage, Graphics, pastels and mixed Media; Sculpture; Black and White Photography; Color Photography; and Asian Style Art. There will also be a category for work in any medium produced by professional artists.

This year's event will get underway with an awards reception to be held at the Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 30. Show hours on May 1 will be from noon to 5 p.m. and from noon to 4 p.m. on May 2.

12

Girl Scouts offer summer camp for grades 1 through 12

Francisco, Marin, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Calaveras, El Dorado and Placer counties.



NINE TALENTED LOCAL YOUNGSTERS walked off with top prizes in the recent Easter Coloring contest sponsored by the El Cerrito Plaza Merchants Association. Pictured in the top row are the winners of \$25 in Plaza Money given for taking first place in the three categories. From left to right: Romeo Swindell, 4-5 years; Alia McKean, 6-7 years; and Lindsey Youngquist, 8-9 years. In the middle row, second place winners of \$15 in Plaza Money from left to right: Stuart Swanson, 4-5 years, and Spencer Swanson, 8-9 years; William Gooden, 6-7 years. In the bottom row, winners of \$10 in Plaza Money third prizes, from left to right: Alan Zhang, 4-5; Erin Yerger, 6-7; and Seren Moran, 8-9. Not pictured were the following young award winners: Alayna Nuzman, 4-5; Theresa Lynn Aller, 6-7; and Antonio Ramos, 8-9.

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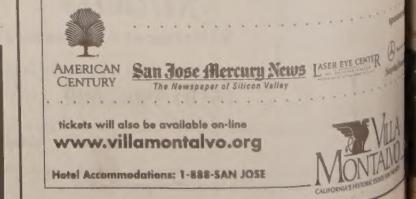
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</div

A.G. Ferrari name honors grandfather

Perhaps no column I wrote last year affected readers as much as the one I did about Paul Ferrari. He's the guy who changed the name of his family's chain of Italian specialty food stores from Ultra Lucca to A.G. Ferrari Foods.

I received a press release about the change, and it started me wondering: Who was A.G. Ferrari? Who, or that matter, was Ultra Lucca? And why the change?

So I called Paul, and it turned out A.G. Ferrari was his grandfather, Annibale Ferrari, who died before he was born. Annibale was only 17 years old when he landed in San Francisco in 1916, without a penny to his name. It was he who founded the family business, not to mention the family itself.

As for Ultra Lucca, it didn't stand for anything. It was just a generic name. The "Lucca" part came from the fact that a lot of Italian-Americans in the Bay Area came from Lucca, Italy. And "Ultra" meant, well, even more so.

In changing the name to "A.G. Ferrari," Paul was not only honoring his grandfather he never met; he was also trying to get back in touch with

Snappshots

By Martin Snapp

his own roots.

That triggered an avalanche of letters from readers who felt personally touched by Paul's story — and not just from Italian-Americans, either. It's a story familiar to all of us, no matter where our ancestors came from: The first generation gets off the boat. The second generation becomes "Americanized." And the third generation, haunted by what has been lost in the process of Americanization, tries to get back to its roots.

One reader, Randy Alfred of San Francisco, was reminded of an old Yiddish adage: "The son remembers what the father wishes to forget."

So I thought you might be curious about what Paul has been up to since then. You'll be glad to know that his search for his roots has, if anything, accelerated.

A week after my column appeared, he drove to the Italian consulate in San Francisco, where he was sworn in as an Italian citizen.

It's a dual citizenship; he'll be able to vote in both Italian and American elections. "My grandfather was intensely proud of being an American, and grateful to this country for everything it did for him," says Paul. "But he was also proud of being Italian."

Since then, he's been dividing his time between the Bay Area and Italy, especially his grandfather's hometown of Borgotaro, where half the people are also named Ferrari — including the mayor, Pierluigi Ferrari.

In fact, he's in Italy right now, picking olives. (More about that later.) But just before he left, he and I met at his Elmwood store, where we spent a leisurely morning schmoozing and sipping cappuccinos. "Here," he said, "try some of this jam." Tell me what you think of it.

It had a piquant, sweet-sour taste that I couldn't quite place. "What is it?" I asked.

"Pomodoro Verdi," he said. "Green tomatoes. It's made by some Trappist nuns in a cloistered convent about 70 kilometers outside Rome. They make it in small batches in copper kettles.

"Now, a Trappist's life is pretty limited. All they do is work and pray. So with such a severe rule, I was ex-

pecting to meet some severe nuns. Nothing could have been further from the truth. They are the happiest group of people I've ever met. They're so enthusiastic about what they do."

And despite their restricted lifestyle, the nuns aren't quite as out of touch with the rest of the world as you might imagine. When Paul told them, "I've never heard of green tomato jam before," they replied, "You ought to rent this movie called 'Fried Green Tomatoes!'"

Next, he had me sample some sunflower honey from the Piedmont area in Northern Italy. "I get this from a guy named Danielle DiValle (translation: 'Daniel from the valley')," he said. "These honey guys are amazing. They have this nomadic attitude toward life, just like the bees. They just sort of wander off and work by themselves."

"But I haven't been able to get any sunflower honey for the past two years because Danielle won't sell any to me. He doesn't think it's good enough. Because of El Niño and La Niña, the weather has changed a little bit, and the bees won't stay on the sunflowers. So the honey also has a little bit of other flavors, like dandelions and acacia. Danielle said, 'I won't sell it to you because you're Italian. I won't sell honey that's not pure to a fellow Italian. I'll sell it to the Germans, instead. They don't care.'"

And what are the prospects for this year's honey harvest? "We've contacted the Trappist nuns," said Paul. "We're going to have them pray for the bees to stay on the sunflowers this year."

■ ■ ■

Just then, two women walked into the store and said, "Are you Paul? Andrea Bertucci told us to say 'hi.'"

They were Brook Battles and Ann Hightower of Oakland, who had just come back from a dream vacation in Italy, where they had met one of Paul's friends, the owner of an Italian food shop in Garfiano, just north of Lucca.

"He was the most charming man," said Battles. "He fed us Zuppa di Toscana, and it was absolutely wonderful. It was our favorite day of the entire trip. He made us promise that when we got back home we'd look you up and give you his greetings."

"Happens all the time," Paul told them after they left. "If you love food, it's a very small world."

Then two delivery men arrived carrying a wooden crate, and Paul jumped up with excitement. "It's here! It's finally here!" he cried. "The new shipment of olive oil from Duccio! I thought it would never arrive!" Gently, he unpacked bottle after bottle that looked more like fine wine than "mere" olive oil. And it carried a higher price tag than a lot of wines, too: \$30 a bottle.

"In Italy, they take more pride in olive oil than they even do wine," said Paul. "This comes from the estate of my friend, Duccio Corsini. He's a real Italian prince who can trace his ancestry back to the Middle Ages."

Paul wasn't kidding. According to the history books, the Corsini family produced, among others, a Renaissance Pope (Clement XII), the Pope who built the Trevi fountain and a Medieval saint (St. Andrew Corsini, who was famous for his gifts of prophecy and miracles). Less than 50 years ago, you could travel from Florence to Sicily



EDMUND LEE
Paul Ferrari started the A.G. Ferrari delicatessens in the East Bay. On the wall is an old photo of his grandfather Annibale Ferrari.

without ever leaving Corsini property.

Anyway, the label on the bottle has the Corsini crest and a family motto befitting a Renaissance prince: Malo Mori Quam Feodari" (translation: "Better to die than to betray a trust.")

Which brings us to why Paul is in Italy right now, picking olives: This olive oil is so exclusive, Prince Corsini won't sell you any unless you personally help with the harvest. So every year, Paul goes over to Italy, puts on his oldest clothes, and helps bring in the crop.

The Corsini castle is up on the hill, and the olive trees are down below," he said. "All the local farmers (known as contadini) show up, and we all work until the whole crop is picked. The contadini are given their choice: They can be paid either in cash or in olive oil. But they always choose the olive oil."

While our interview was drawing to a close, a photographer was standing on a chair taking pictures of Paul for this article. Suddenly, he stumbled momentarily, starting a little girl who was in the store with her mother.

The girl's lower lip started to quiver, and tears started welling up in her eyes, and you could see she was just about to burst into tears.

Quick as a flash, Paul leaped out of his seat, grabbed a handful of bread sticks, and rushed over to the little tyke.

"Don't be frightened, princess," he said, kneeling down her eye level. "Here, taste this bread stick. Good, huh?"

Tentatively, she reached out for one. She took a bite, then she took another, and he took another. In spite of herself, she couldn't help smiling. As I left the store, she and Paul were still giggling and cooing at each other.

And it finally hit me: This guy may be only 46, but he has the soul of a kindly old man. In his search for his identity, he's turned himself into his own grandfather.

And I thought to myself, "Now THERE is a man who has found the secret to a happy life."

Phone Martin Snapp at (510) 273-9079 or e-mail him at catman@california.com

Watch 'Frasier,' then 'go take on the day'

Media Notes

By Bill Mann

posted on the Web.)

Another deliciously satisfying touch: Showing "Dr. Nora's" estrangement from her mother. One would think that someone who specializes in telling people how to run their lives might have long ago reconciled with her own mother (Dr. Laura hasn't). NBC has asked TV critics not to reveal the name of the famous actress who plays Dr. Nora's mother and who unexpectedly shows up at her radio show. But I can reveal it makes for a hilarious conclusion. So don't want to miss next Thursday's "Frasier." Schlessinger will hate it, of course, which makes it all the more enjoyable. And you can be pretty sure Dr. L. will have a typically self-serving response on her radio show.

New Dave: I've got a confession to make that might surprise a lot of my long-time Bay readers: I haven't been watching David Letterman for the past year. His show has become too predictable, and it doesn't have the edge it once did. And, as many of you know, I've been a big Letterman fan for 15 years. It's obvious that Crag Kilborn, new host of the show that follows Dave's CBS "Late Show," is being groomed as Letterman's successor. Good call, because right now, Kilborn, who came to CBS after hosting Comedy Central's "Daily Show," is the funniest thing on late-night TV. I tape "Late Late Show" every night now, and I'm rarely disappointed.

Kilborn in many ways resembles a younger Letterman - he's bright, cocky, and a ironic. He also has a great writing staff.

As a novice interviewer, Kilborn is proving more adept than Letterman was. The engaging, hip Kilborn often comes up with a question that's both funny and unexpected. He asked Shirley Manson, singer from Scottish group Garbage, "Did you have a 'Braveheart' childhood or a 'Trainspotting' childhood?" He asked Hugh Hefner this about his childhood: "What were your family's turn-offs and turn-ons?" There's always great material on each night's mock newscast, which is funnier than the Comedy Central version.

Noting Queen Elizabeth's recent trip to South Korea, Kilborn said, "Korean onlookers described the Queen as every bit as awkward and detached

in person as she is on TV." Talk about edgy: Kilborn added, "President Kim has obviously not been keeping up with the news. At one point during his meeting with the Queen, he asked her how her beautiful daughter-in-law Diana was doing."

On another show, Kilborn noted a news item about Marie Osmond's eighth pregnancy. "Asked why she'd gotten pregnant so many times," Kilborn said, "Marie answered, 'Hey, I just like to get it on.'"

Noting a recent poll that named Barbara Streisand the top female singer of the century, Kilborn couldn't resist noting ironically, "Streisand-watches hope this poll will give Barbara the confidence she needs to break out of her shell and realize how important she really is."

L.A.'s weather has been so hot lately, Kilborn said, "That 'Charlie Sheen actually went back to DRINKING coke."

If I were NBC's late-show host, Conan O'Brien, I think I might be a bit concerned right now. Kilborn's show is much, much funnier than O'Brien's right now.

"Late Late Show" airs at 12:35 a.m. on KPIX. Kilborn's take on the winner of MTV's recent "I Want to Be a VJ" Contest (the clever graphic read "VJ Day"): "The young Florida woman's meteoric rise to fame took an unexpected downtown, and she was profiled on VH-1's 'Where Are They Now?'" Kilborn added: "Reached for comment, original MTV VJ Martha Quinn said, 'Do you want to check your coat, or hang on to it?' About the widely panned new Eddie Murphy film "Life" taking over the box office lead last weekend, Kilborn noted, "Most analysts suggest the most likely explanation is that every print of every other movie was destroyed in a fire Thursday night."

In other words, Kilborn's show is too good NOT to tape.

He'll Be Back: KTVU anchor Dennis Richmond reports that he's back at home after having back surgery in Oakland last week for a ruptured disc. The painful and debilitating injury had crippled the newsman for weeks. "I'm going to try to be back on the air Monday," he tells me. Aside from the pain, Richmond admits, there was another reason he went under the knife: "No way could I watch all this good weather coming on and not be able to swing a golf club all summer."

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Dancers add spice to a warm Sunday

By James Carter

ALBANY- It was warm last Sunday. Outside, peach and cherry blossoms bloomed. It was the type of Sunday teen-agers dream about during the dark, dank days of winter.

Yet 40 students from Albany High School gathered in the steamy back room of the Community Center April 18. It was Salsa Sunday.

Inside, Naomi Fribourg, assisted by several AHS students, taught teens how to dance to the tropical rhythms of salsa. It was a chance for many to touch another young person and dance to the music without feeling uptight. And it was fun.

Sponsored by Bust-A-Move, a popular dance and culture club in town, and the AHS Black & Latino Student Union, Salsa Sunday was the first of many planned events designed to provide a venue for young people to learn new steps and "dance till the floor smokes."

"It's a lot about attitude," said AHS senior Baruch Porras, referring to salsa. "You really have to get into the music and feel the rhythm. It's simple, beats of four, but once you learn the basic steps you can make so many cool moves."

All 40 students were impressed by Fribourg. The 25-year-old instructor teaches salsa and rueda at Funkworks in Emeryville. Fribourg knows what she is doing. She even brought two tins of Altoids for students worried they might say the wrong thing.

"They're great," Fribourg said referring to the high school students. "It's really amazing how quickly they learn."

"Naomi paid a lot of attention to everyone," said Tara Taylor, a senior at AHS. "Things were well organized, a lot of people showed up and we all had a great time."

Asked what she liked most about salsa, Taylor said, "I like the music and the contact with your partner."

Paul Rockwell, the adult sponsor of Bust-A-Move, has the energy of a teen- a teen "dancing," that is. Rockwell stresses the importance of providing young people with the opportunity to dance and enjoy themselves.

"When I was a kid, we had sock hops," he said. One of the things Bust-A-Move and Rockwell hope to do is organize regular monthly dances. The problem is there are few locations in town where young people can meet.

On May 4, in celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Bust-A-Move and the Black & Latino Student Union will sponsor a noon dance at AHS, that will include salsa lessons.

"This is another great opportunity for young people to get together, get to know each other and have fun," Rockwell said.

For more information, call 526-3720, Ext. 17.



AHS SOPHOMORE Amy Jin and Chris Fitzsimons dance at the Community Center.

Plaza

FROM PAGE A1

Holley used terms such as "urban edge shopping experience" and "pedestrian friendly environment" and "signature identity" to describe the proposed site plan.

"In design, we're trying to create a quality appearance as well as maximize retail sales for the community as well as for the retail merchants," Holley said. "We've also tried to address the city's desire to see kind of a downtown shopping experience a la Solano Avenue and Fourth Street Berkeley, etc."

"We want to complete the project by October 2000," Holley said, and added that this "basically means we need to get our approvals in place no later than the middle of June — the end of June."

The Lucky-Savon store would be in the northeast part of the new Plaza with its back toward the Ohlone Greenway and its entrance facing west. Parking would be in front of the store. Along Fairmount Avenue would be several smaller retail stores including three 20,000- to 30,000-square-foot retail store pads in addition to the Lucky-Savon building.

A traffic roundabout with a 100-foot-tall Plaza sign would be in the approximate center of the new shopping center, just northeast of Longs.

Redwood trees, fencing and other landscaping screening is planned along the east side of the Plaza between the center and the Greenway. A creek that currently runs underground just west of the Greenway will be reconfigured to run above ground for about 300 feet along the eastern edge of the Plaza.

The design of the proposed Plaza has an art deco look with liberal use of neon architectural lighting, bold colors and architectural metals.

There would be a fountain, outdoor eating areas and raised pre-cast planters. Trees to be used in the proposed landscaping design include Mexican fan palms, southern magnolias, Japanese flowering cherry and coast redwoods.

"We can't give you the complete downtown on 33 acres, but hopefully we're coming close," Holley told the commissioners.

It was not close enough for the onlookers, however, was plenty of criticism of a plan at the study session.

"I'm still not very pleased with the configuration of the site plan," said Commissioner McKinley. She said it was "unclear" the Lucky store "at the end of the Plaza up against Greenway."

McKinley said that in things such as security cameras, building's location suggests Greenway is somehow a Savon store to the west of parking and possibly having on both east and west sides.

Although McKinley did not say "Fairmount Avenue edge" and other changes in the new plaza, the owners have given up plans to create a "destination" place. "Convenience center — and I don't really sad," she said.

Planning Commission Chairman Groch also expressed concern with the site plan.

"This project is not urban," Groch insisted. He said there is no mass in the plan, adding "then there are restaurants, but it's restaurants or stores — that's all."

"This is not a community center," Groch said. Although he is not sure about getting a department back at the Plaza, he would like to get a community center.

Groch said a true community center could include offices, a small complex of cinema to place "where people really will and there really is opportunity to do 16-18 hours a day."

Resident Peter Loubal said nothing about the proposed Plaza that "it's being financed by others." Loubal said that he would like to see "mixed use" concern from work on traffic circulation, creekside trail issues and access in the northeast corner.

He did not seem thrilled with the site plan, but seemed to believe about as good as El Cerrito will be the owners as developers and public assistance. "The community wants this project to go on," Loubal contended.

Genser

FROM PAGE A9

in Stockton. She now teaches Hawaiian dance to adults, in addition to her work with children.

Daughter Maria has a dance studio and, like her mother, choreographs and teaches. Daughter Janine, who also danced when she was younger, is now teacher of the second grade in Southern California, while Bettina, the youngest, is an RN married to a Marine. "We have visited her in exotic places such as Okinawa, Hawaii, as well as Southern California and Seattle."

The music, she says, came down from her parents. Her mother was a pianist and taught her daughters as well as other youngsters. Her father, an attorney, was also a singer and taught singing. For a while, she remembers, her husband and father were partners in law.

Eleanor Weigand has enjoyed her

County Board of Education trimmed

By Suzanne Baker

Quality over quantity is the new catch phrase at the county Board of Education.

In order to more efficiently serve the students and school districts of Alameda County, the County Board of Education announced April 12 plans to cut the number of its office divisions in half, from four to two.

This reorganization was recommended by two management study teams in a report based on their three-month study of all aspects of the county office.

The report found that ACOE (Alameda County Office of Education) functioned as several separate organizations, rather than as one integrated organization with a common purpose," said ACOE Superintendent Sheila Jordan in a press release.

Until now, ACOE has spread its resources and energy over a wide range of projects throughout the county, something that Jordan said has hurt the effectiveness

of the organization.

"One of the main changes will be to foster collaboration and coordination (between divisions)," she said. "We really want to be focused and targeted in what we

want to provide for the district."

Focusing on key areas, such as teacher recruitment, staff development and research on best practices, will allow the county to better serve their target popu-

lation — at-risk youth — as well as throughout the county. The transition is expected to save the ACOE \$500,000, money that will be used for direct services for the students, stu-

Here's your chance to tell your career success in picture and story!

Women in Business

Appearing May 18, 20 & 21, 1999 in

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photo by Carmen Uriguiza

Opinion

AROUND TOWN



OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY JOI LISA MIKOŁUCZYK
TO SEE to believe department. Sisters Vini, Vidi and Vici
and take the oath of enlistment into the U.S. Navy. Vini seems
more than her sisters about the whole thing.

Ambitious proposal to manage Wildcat Canyon

By Chris Treadway

Earthquake Preparedness
so naturally we're going to
be a major public safety issue
danger.

Wildcat Canyon, that gigantic
space that starts at the edge of
Kensington in the hills

and borders the length of El Cerrito,

an asset and, in its present

liability. The dense vegeta-

tion in the East Bay Regional

Watershed, most of it

60 to 70 years, constitutes a

hazard.

William McClung knows well the

consequences of such a situation. He

is house in the 1991 fire that

destroyed the Oakland (and some

Berkeley) hills.

Clung, in 1994, was appointed

Berkeley Fire Commission,

studied which areas were

fuel "hot spots" and ways

to reduce the load of overgrown veg-

etation.

subsequently went on to found

Builders, an organization

that devised a plan to manage

public spaces in the East Bay

through the reintroduction of

grasslands and plants, which

is far more beneficial

than vegetation-management

both in reducing fire dan-

ger, preventing erosion and in sup-

porting wildlife habitats.

we have been 30 years of re-

concerns in the East Bay

recommendations have been

and to a large extent nothing

has been done." McClung told El

Cerritos last week.

Clung wants to intersperse

areas in the hills with meadow-

perennial native grasses that

green to cut down on fire risk

and a deep root system that re-

assures "so that you wouldn't

have the same problem not only year

but decade after decade.

McClung, in conjunction with

Kensington and the East

Regional District, is applying for

one, three-year \$1,046 million

grant to initiate just such a

grant.

use watershed stewardship

method requirement for the grant

at one of the larger ar-

es in the hills that has the

potential for supporting steelhead

salmon. McClung's colleague,

which called current vegetation man-

agement "an all-or-nothing

approach," citing the use of goat

that much growth to the

That approach, he said, "cre-

ates ground that accelerates the

growth of brush." Under the

that would be cut down would

in the open space floor to rot

the shade in wooded

would alternate with open

areas of perennial bunch grass

or native plants.

Wildcat's largest undertaking

has been 50 acres around the

the Berkeley National Labo-

Wildcat Canyon would be a

up for the fledgling con-

E-mail letters to The Journal at
Journal@cctimes.com, or mail your
letters to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito,
94530



VIEWPOINT

El Cerrito will sparkle on Saturday

By the El Cerrito Earth Day
Committee

Over 2,000 volunteer hours of work
will be given by El Cerrito citizens this
Saturday morning, April 24th marks
the 30th year in which the community
comes together to pull weeds,
rake leaves, plant trees and scrub
clean 31 parks, schools, creeks, and
public building grounds.

Have you signed up to work yet?
If you have, we will see you at your

assigned work site. If you have not,
you still have time to help out. Sim-
ply show up Saturday at the El Cerrito
Community Center between 8:30
and 9am. There you will find out
where to go. When you arrive at the
site, the site coordinator—who will
be wearing an Earth Day Site Coor-
dinator T-shirt—will give you a task.

Remember to bring your favorite
garden tools and gloves, and a big wa-
ter bottle. The temperature is soaring
into the 90s on Saturday.

Food, glorious food ...

Beginning at noon, the city will
host a free barbecue lunch for all vol-
unteers. Community restaurants and
grocery stores have donated food for
the lunch. Donators are McDonald's,
El Patio Chuckberger, Nibs, Wiener-
schnitzel, Carrows, Taco Bell, Wal-
green, El Cerrito Natural Grocery,
Costco and Baskin-Robbins. Calistoga
Mountain Spring Water is selling the
Earth Day Celebration 240 bottles of

water at cost. Many establishments
have donated money. The list of
donors will be published next week.

Please call Beth Bartke at 215-4382
or Janet Ableson at HYPERLINK mail
to: abejanet@aol.com with any fur-
ther questions. The City of El Cerrito,
Sustainable El Cerrito and El Cerrito
Chamber of Commerce are sponsor-
ing Earth Day Celebration '99. The
coordinators for this year's event are
Janet Ableson and Joann Steck-Bayat.
See you on Saturday!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Yes' vote urged on A

The wonderful thing about living in Albany
is that it's a vibrant community. It's a safe,
friendly small town where retired folks and
young families gather at neighborhood
potlucks and Fourth of July celebrations. Young
people provide support to a variety of senior
programs and services, and people who gradu-
ated from Albany schools 30 or 40 years ago
continues to volunteer their time to help such
causes as the Education Foundation.

This June, Albany seniors can help ensure
the continued strength of Albany schools by
voting Yes on Measure A. It will bring in about
\$1 million for things like foreign language and
music and computer instruction, things that
are so important for today's children. The measure
will add \$10 per month to property taxes
(\$120 per year). I am in favor of Measure A and
had been wondering if my senior status
could make my assessment less than \$120 per
year. Yes, importantly, it will not place an additional
burden on seniors because anyone 65 or
over can request an exemption.

Keeping our community vibrant means keep-
ing our schools strong. Join the effort to preserve
and strengthen our schools by voting Yes on A.

Dorothy McKenna
Albany

our students work very hard and want to make
a difference in their community and in the future.
I want our students to have enough choices
so that they can find a passion in their school
day that piques their interest above and beyond
the daily grind or the basics. Classes that chal-
lenge them to new levels of competence.

Classes I took for granted were available
when I was in school. Our students are des-
perate to show their talents and accomplish-
ments, and I know that the programs Measure
A can offer, particularly in music, performing
arts, science and technology, can serve our
children in a way that can nurture the whole
person they are becoming.

We have been learning that there are mul-
tiple kinds of intelligences possible. I think we
owe it to our future citizens to provide as many
avenues as possible for them to discover their
own special talents and interests. Measure A is
a step toward this end, and your support is a
direct way to take an active part in deciding to
make a difference for our kids instead of wait-
ing for someone else to do something.

Measure A can make a difference as soon
as September, so please, help us to help you keep
Albany strong, and proud of our willingness to
make education a priority in our community.

Marge Atkinson
Albany

Loubel alone filibustered viciously.

Your feature writer reported that meeting bril-
liantly except for one thing, he overlooked the
Loubel hysteric. Too bad. Nevertheless, I appre-
ciate your action in this matter, even though my
viewpoint may be distasteful to you.

Dan Freudenthal

Student wants A

As a senior at Albany High School I am a
member of the generation that has borne the
brunt of California's rapidly degenerating ed-
ucational system. It all started when Prop. 113
tightened the noose on the funds available for
public services like education, right before we
all entered the public school system, and then
expanded under the Wilson administration as
students saw elective options and extracur-
ricular activities drop left and right due to bud-
get constraints. We even got Ward Connerly
to fight affirmative action and revoke our rights
to equality in the college admissions process.
We are the generation of portable classrooms,
20-year-old paintbrushes and not enough paper
to last throughout the year.

While the long-term solution to these prob-
lems should be to re-prioritize state funds and
raise all public schools to a level of equality and
excellence, one short-term solution for Albany is
Measure A. This parcel tax, on the June 8 ballot,
will raise \$1 million per year for new educational
programs in Albany schools. Perhaps with this
money AHS will be able to offer a wider variety
of language classes, re-establish a drama depart-
ment, or develop a dance program — all things
that I feel were lacking in my education. Vote
"yes" on Measure A.

Katie Hannon
Albany

Teacher supports Measure A

As an Albany teacher and resident, I enthu-
siastically support the passage of Measure A on
June 8. I think our students need our support if
we want them to be able compete at the level
we expect as a community. I work with these
fine, young people everyday and I know that

Hysteric overlooked

Thank you for your courtesy and consider-
ation in publishing my letter pinpointing the
hysterical behavior of Peter Loubel at the recent
public meeting carefully crafted to obtain
maximum of public suggestions concerned with
updating the outdated general plan. A
goodly number of El Cerritans attend that
meeting eager to make constructive sugges-

"... were it left to me to decide whether we
should have a government without newspapers,
or newspapers without a government, I should
not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON THE JOURNAL

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Member, California Newspaper Publishers Association

Dogs

FROM PAGE A1

as "a parent, soccer coach and a dog owner," said there is more "cat feces" around town than dog droppings. Fox said her dog is a mascot for a soccer team, and that children enjoy playing with her pooch at the park.

Fox, a health care provider, suggested there are greater health risks posed by people who spit on the streets than by dog droppings.

The notion that parks and athletic fields are "soaked" with urine drew ridicule from a number of residents.

Dave Greer said dog owners are "extremely responsible," and maintained he hasn't seen any dog droppings in Memorial Park. Greer suggested the assessment that fields are soaked in dog urine "is certainly amazing prose." After a heavy winter, Greer said he "made the mistake of trying to slosh across (Memorial Park), but it never dawned on me" that the field was drenched with dog urine.

"I realized that if you took every dog in Albany and squeezed him in a vice, that it would be impossible to soak that field," Greer said, prompting howls of laughter.

Building community

A number of residents stressed the role dogs play in "building community." Many said they met people while walking their dogs and regularly gather to socialize while their animals race up and down fields and parks.

Councilman Ed McManus said he conducted informal surveys at Memorial Park and noticed a number of people gathered there at night talking and socializing, which he said is a "good thing." However, McManus said that while many individuals carried flashlights so they could locate their dog's dung after dark, it is impossible for anyone to monitor their dog's activities — much less spot where they squat — in the black of night.

Mayor Peggy Thomsen, a dog owner, said she "has concerns about the fact that students are on (Memorial Field) in the morning every single day" exercising for physical education classes and other activities. Thomsen said she believes there is a health issue involved, though she added if people could show her data that proved differently, she'd be happy to examine it.

Dropping hints about AHS

Though many speakers continued to insist city parks are excrement-free, others complained that at Memorial Field, students at Albany High School leave a bigger mess than pets. One insisted she had to prevent her dog from eating abandoned McDonald's hamburgers dumped there, food she said posed a health hazard to her pooch.

Though one resident warned the council that political action "like that in the city to the south" might be necessary if they passed the proposed ordinance, most urged that there be further debate and creative solutions sought to solve the problem and possibly even reach a compromise.

Eventually the matter was put to a vote and all five members of the council agreed to send it back to the Park Commission in September.

Jewel Okawachi, chairwoman of the Parks Commission, explained

that local volunteers drafted the proposed animal ordinance after several months of debate during which few residents attended meetings or expressed their views. She thanked residents for coming to the council meeting and expressing their opinions, and urged them to participate in the Park Commission discussions later this year.

In other business

■ The council agreed to use \$100,000 from the Worker's Compensation Reserve Fund "due to higher than anticipated current and upcoming" worker's claims. According to a report issued by city staff, the fund currently has a cash balance of \$388,377. The report described an "ongoing tight financial situation," in Albany which created the need to "expend" \$100,000 from the reserve fund.

According to that same report, such funds provide "the city with additional financial flexibility," and are a "crucial step" toward balancing the budget.

'Catastrophic' claims

The resolution authorizing the use of "reserve social security" funds said the city is "self-insured." City Administrator Darren Fields told the council there have been "catastrophic" worker's compensation claims made against the city this year, and that by law, employers are required to pay them.

Resident Dario Meniketti questioned the use of the funds. He asked the council to investigate why employees are experiencing more injuries. He said his experience suggested "when moral is low," people tend to get hurt and sick more often.

Meniketti also urged the council to investigate if there are any problems with equipment and warned them "not to just take the staff's word for it" regarding the need for the funds.

The council did not debate the resolution and passed it as part of what is called the "consent calendar" — items that are generally considered non-controversial and subsequently require no debate or discussion. An item on the consent calendar can be discussed if a council member makes a request to consider it as a separate item.

■ A resolution endorsing State Senate Bill 15, introduced by Richard Polanco, that bans the sale of handguns the legislation refers to as "Saturday night specials," passed despite the objection of Vice Mayor Jon Ely. "This particular legislation just bothers me, the way it's written," he said. "It's disingenuous, and not truly about safety."

Councilman Robert Good, speaking in support of the resolution, said "it seems to be saying that guns should be safer." He said he thought it was designed to prevent accidents. "If you kill somebody it should be on purpose," Good said. The endorsement was passed by a margin of 4 to 1, Ely casting the only no vote.

■ The council went on record as opposing Senate Bill 402. The pending legislation would maintain the prohibition of strikes by peace officers and firefighters yet would require binding arbitration if employee representatives and employers are unable to agree on the appointment of a mediator, or if a mediator is unable to settle a dispute.

The resolution opposing the bill was passed as part of the consent

Though many speakers continued to insist city parks are excrement-free, others complained that at Memorial Field, students at Albany High School leave a bigger mess than pets. One insisted she had to prevent her dog from eating abandoned McDonald's hamburgers dumped there, food she said posed a health hazard to her pooch.

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Jewel Okawachi, chairwoman of the Parks Commission, explained

Officials will consider garbage-rate changes

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is considering changes in garbage rates and service to encourage recycling among customers.

A new 20-gallon can will be added to the service for \$16.50 a month. Service for the regular 32-gallon can will remain the same, but rates in-

crease with two or more cans. The proposed changes would mean customers with two cans would pay \$41 a month instead of the current \$36.82.

Each additional can is \$20.50 a month.

The changes were expected to be voted on April 20.

The new owners plan to capital-

Earth

FROM PAGE A1

a lot of speeches and talking about what we ought to be doing — we're out there doing it," said Earth Day Co-Chair Janet Abelson to explain what makes the day special in El Cerrito.

"We're doing all kinds of different things this year," she explained. She said special effort was made to make the high school clean up "a student project."

Abelson said student leaders in charge of the project surveyed students to set Earth Day priorities and develop the final projects list. "We've also got over 100 students who have signed up and said they want to work that day," Abelson explained.

She said major projects at the high school include cleaning up behind the fenced area along Ashbury

Avenue, planting trees throughout the campus and planting new bushes at the front of the main building.

Earth Day work will be going on all over town. There are work parties planned for Baxter Creek, Cerrito Vista Park, the Civic Center, Harding School, the library and several areas along the Ohlone Greenway, just to name a few.

Earth Day has traditionally been a big success in El Cerrito and more than 300 people are expected to participate again this year. This year it is being sponsored jointly by the city, the Chamber of Commerce and Sustainable El Cerrito. "Even though we have all these people, we need all the help that we can get," Abelson said.

Volunteers can call Beth Bartke at City Hall at 215-4382 or simply show up this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, and receive their assignments.

Fire

FROM PAGE A1

room and tried to smother the fire, but the towel itself caught afire.

In the confusion, Aguirre said he didn't remember that there was a small fire extinguisher in the shop. He then called the Fire Department.

Aguirre lived in the rear apartment, but since the fire he has been staying with a friend in San Leandro.

Said the apartment is uninhabitable at present.

The 68-year-old Aguirre said he will return as a tenant in the apartment, but is unsure about reopening the shoe repair shop he has operated since 1976.

Aguirre became choked with emotion when talking about his cat "Nee Nee" found overcome by smoke under the bed in the rear apartment.

He said the cat was special to him and his customers. "She heard that bell ring and she'd rush from the living quarters into the shop and greet my customers and they would pet her," Aguirre recalled.

Scott said Aguirre made the "classic mistake" of trying to put out the fire himself before calling the Fire Department.

"The fire spread rapidly due to the materials at the point of origin," Scott explained.

He said that rubber cement and a number of other flammable "shoe repair-related items that were liquids or semi-solids" located on a shelf near the fan quickly accelerated the

fire. Open doors in the building also resulted in the fire spreading more quickly, Scott said.

"We are looking into a small delay at dispatch that is still under investigation," Scott reported. "If there was a delay, we believe the delay will have been under three minutes — but we're not sure that there was a delay of even that much."

"John opted to try to put out the fire and then went to another portion of the building before he was able to make the call, and so that did result in a delay itself," Scott pointed out.

"When you look at the building itself and the fact that there was no real deep-seated structural damages — the guys were all over that fire really quickly from the time that they got there," Scott said. "They made a good stop."

Fire Department officials estimate business property loss at \$100,000 and structural damage of the building itself to be another \$100,000.

"Maybe like the phoenix from the ashes — maybe I can make a re-opening," Aguirre said about reopening his shop.

But he is thinking about retirement and is not sure that he wants to reopen the business.

"I don't know if I can handle it emotionally," he said, recalling his lost cat.

"The cat was part of the business really, so to speak, because of how much time she was spending there with me, watching me do my work," Aguirre explained.

"Time heals all wounds. It's going to take a little more time."

Waterfront homeless feeling the squeeze

■ Removal of Aquatic Park encampment, eviction of Albany squatters leave few places to go

By Marc Albert

Visitors to Berkeley's Aquatic Park were greeted by two large garbage hillocks last weekend, apparent remains of a homeless encampment torn down by police and public works crews.

Crews removed the belongings, including clothes, bedding, pallets, a shopping cart and cassette tapes early this week.

"Their normal policy is bag the stuff up and take it to the transfer station and wait for someone to claim it," said Berkeley Waterfront Commissioner Claudia Kawczynska. "This, however, is not the right approach, you can't take people's belongings and just pile them up in the middle of a walkway."

With the homeless pushed further and further to the margins and Albany authorities gearing up to clear a 57-member camp along that city's waterfront, Berkeley officials are wondering aloud what to do.

"Outreach staff are assisting people in finding alternatives for those folks," said Health and Human Services Director Fred Medrano. "But many of them are very vulnerable and used to living on the fringes of society."

Medrano said that though the city "can probably accommodate a handful of the people," it is also caught in a bind.

Provide too many services, and the city becomes a magnet for massive numbers of the needy. But turning a blind eye goes against the compassionate instincts of the city itself. "What we don't want to see is us ending up the landing pad for every homeless person in the area," Medrano said.

What city officials don't want is to give the impression that Aquatic Park is a place where anything goes.

Nearly \$10 million in city and state funds are about to alter the park.

A children's play area and new bathroom will join 141 saplings planted in the park last year. Even the long awaited "living" freeway wall and Interstate 80 pedestrian bridge are supposed to be constructed next year.

But Parks Commission Chair Lisa

"We are going and help people that are amenable to getting support. I'm not saying we're going to come up with solutions for all those people. It's not realistic, it's going to happen."

Fred Medrano, Berkeley Human Services

Stephens said keeping maintained is a bigger and better staffing levels can accomplish.

The problem is we are gardeners for the city and Aquatic Park is a big place. Fortunately it has served as a meeting ground by various groups and private people.

But if the homeless are in the marina, where will the staffers said privately the Rose and Cedar Rose come the next location for those kicked out of the southwest of Seabreeze.

Ironically this is the original Albany Bu...

City crews have cut down in various locations of Ohlone and Cedar Rose are installing nighttime

Medrano said the needs to be addressed basis.

"We need to work with and Richmond. We are and to help people that are to getting support. I'm we're going to come up for all of those cases realistic, it's not going to

"We want to make it relevant for the future but retain the historical flavor. We'll (keep) a few of the old dishes but keep the menu contemporary," Schmick said.

While the announcement has Fourth Street sailing, it has torpedoed efforts by Local 2850 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union to preserve union jobs at the restaurant.

"I don't anticipate it opening as a union shop," Schmick said. "If, at the end of the day, the employees want a union, they can move in that direction."

That could be a tough sell in

Berkeley, and union representative Patrick Hickey said it will fight the new owners in court and in the

streets to preserve union

— Doug Schmick on McCormick & Schmick's

streets to preserve union

New owner, recipes for Spenger's

Landmark Berkeley restaurant hopes to lure customers with lighter fare and daily menu changes, but might face labor dispute

By Chuck Squatriglia

Spenger's Fish Grotto has reeled in a new owner who promises to bring contemporary fare to the famous restaurant while maintaining its unique seafaring decor.

Frank "Bud" Spenger said Tuesday that Oregon-based McCormick & Schmick's is taking over his 108-year-old restaurant and will reopen it in late July.

The news ends months of speculation over the fate of one of the Bay Area's most famous restaurants and Spenger's plans for the highly coveted land he owns at the foot of the Fourth Street shopping district.

The new owners plan to capital-

ize on Spenger's reputation as a Berkeley icon by retaining its maritime decor and cozy atmosphere while updating the menu, said Doug Schmick, co-owner of McCormick & Schmick's.

"We want to make it relevant for the future but retain the historical flavor," he said.

The company will spend \$3 million renovating the sprawling restauran...

tant, which seats 800 people.

The restaurant will get a new kitchen, and its extensive collection of mounted fish, maritime paraphernalia and other memorabilia will be refurbished.

The new owners will deep-six Spenger's fried fish and heavy sauces and replace them with lighter

fare, fresh fish and a menu that will change daily.

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Construction Alert

Arlington Avenue

Thousands Oaks Blvd. to Marin Ave.

EBMUD plans to install 2,000 feet of new water main on the west side of Arlington Ave. The project is a critical improvement, increasing water capacity and better preparing the system for seismic activity. Due to this effort, Arlington Ave. will be closed from Thousand Oaks Blvd. to the Circle at Marin Ave. for approximately two months.

All southbound traffic will be detoured between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The designated detour route will be Thousand Oaks Blvd. to the Alameda southbound to Marin Ave. The project is expected to begin the week of April 26, 1999 and be completed on June 28, 1999.

Questions regarding the project may be directed to the Pipeline Construction Division office at (510) 287-0882.

Arrangements will be made for residents along Arlington Blvd. for exit and entry.

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ize on Spenger's reputation as a Berkeley icon by retaining its maritime decor and cozy atmosphere while updating the menu, said Doug Schmick, co-owner of McCormick & Schmick's.

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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

April 22-23, 1999

Section B

Leila Gough Your children's financial education begins with you [B3]

Mark Wilson on why we need to preserve authenticity [B3]

Open Homes Get a jump on the weekend with our listings [B11]

Some homes languish in hot seller's market

Expectations of quick return often fizzle as asking prices overvalued

Even though it's still a hot seller's market, not all homes in the Bay Area are in demand. People have come to expect that a quick sale these days means receiving an offer within the first week of the property's appearance on the market.

I've just been through a very tedious process of representing a seller who was an absentee owner living out of state. The seller had been reading about the brisk market in the Bay Area and was convinced her property would sell even with a hefty price tag.

Before putting the house on the market, our first order of business was to do repairs which involved several weeks of work. The seller and I decided to establish the asking price just before placing the house on the multiple listing service.

At that time, I prepared a comparative market analysis to determine the value of the subject property. According to the seller, the comparable sales I came up with were not at all comparable. She was not happy with the sale prices. She kept saying that her house was so much better than all the others.

The seller also disputed the living square footage as determined by the Assessor's Office. She said their figure was wrong even though there were other houses on her street with the exact same square footage.

The seller had spent several thousand

Call Appeal

By Gayle Tantau



"The price of the house fell four times before we received an offer. During that time, the seller kept saying the fault must lay with the weather or the season..."

dollars on repairs and expected a nice return for her money and that was that.

Unfortunately for the seller, the repairs did not change the unchangeable features of the house. Even though she didn't think so, her house was considerably smaller than the closest comparable sales and it also had one very unattractive feature that could not be changed.

The price of the house fell four times before we received an offer. During that time, the seller kept saying the fault must lay with the weather or the season. On the contrary, I told her the spring is fra-

See PRICING, Page B12



PROCEEDS from the 13th annual secret gardens tour benefit the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-6 school.

'Secret Gardens' in full bloom

Park Day School set to reap benefit

The months of waiting are over. Fabulous gardens in the English tradition and gardens cleverly incorporating rocks and boulders are among the rare delights to be explored in the 13th annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay garden tour, sponsored by Park Day School of Oakland. This year's event takes place on Sunday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Proceeds from the tour benefit the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-6 school.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include a map for a self-guided tour and a booklet with descriptions of each garden.

This year's tour consists of 10 exemplary private gardens in Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont. Bicycle touring maps are also available; carpooling is highly encouraged. Gardens are not accessible to strollers or wheelchairs.

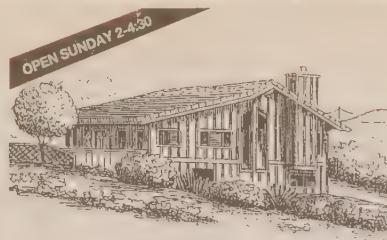
Gourmet box lunches with iced drinks will be available by prepaid reservations for an additional \$7.50, and may be picked up at Park Day School during the tour.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please call the Garden Tour Hotline at Park Day School, (510) 653-6250.

LaSalle properties



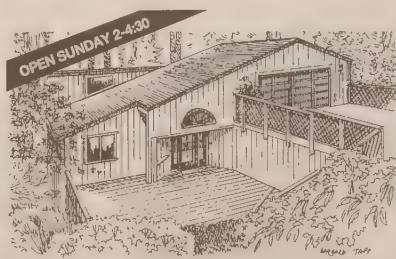
Rare and Dramatic Art Deco \$589,000
Piedmont Pines. 1st open! Set on a level lot w/bay views. 3 br/2.5ba. Formal dining rm. Glamorous interior. Verdant garden. Private. KATE CASTLE 339-8900 x 231



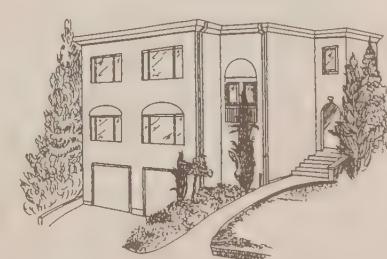
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Leisure Paradise \$265,000
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Rare Elmwood Condominium \$175,000
Classic 1920's brown-shingle unit. Old world detail plus stylish newer kitchen/bath, fireplace, paver tiles and private deck. STEVEN BLASATTI 339-8900 ext. 239

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Adorable Starter Home \$89,000
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Trust, friendship go a long way in Realty

No. 279 in a series of
true experiences in real estate

Word gifts from our client this week: "I am so pleased to pay you," she said as she signed her closing papers.

She chose us to represent her in the sale of her house because, she wanted us to know, she had trusted us from the first. One of her children, she laughed now, had teased her that she did everything "those women" told her to do. He'd been amazed; he'd never known her to follow anyone else's advice like that — "How come?" he'd asked. "They were right," she'd replied.

We liked hearing this, of course, particularly when it was coming from a woman we have enjoyed working with very much. We only met in February, yet we feel that we have loved her for years. In fact the only "bummer" is that she is moving a long distance away and we don't know when we will see her again.

She particularly appreciated, she went on as we lingered together, the help Anet had given her with two bumps that had appeared during the sale: the furnace and the mistaken loan. Just before the house went on the market it was discovered that the furnace must be replaced.

Anet arranged for several heating companies to go see the situation, give opinions and bids for making things right. Anet talked to the estimators about ducting, venting and timing for installation, then she and the seller decided which company to hire.

Later in the sale, after the buyer was in contract, we learned that a loan was erroneously recorded against the house. The seller had applied for an equity line a year or so

True Experiences



By Tarpoff and Talbert

ago, then had decided not to borrow the money after all. She had signed a loan recission, but communications were apparently muddled; the bank had, wrongly, recorded a lien against the house.

Anet had patiently worked her way through a string of bank employees until she found the one the seller should talk to. Although the seller had discarded all of the loan paperwork, the problem was readily resolved.

The seller was thankful for the people we had referred her to for help in getting her house ready: the tree pruner, gardener, the man who did some hauling; the stager, the inspectors and our favorite window washer were all good.

But there was more (and this one is my favorite): She so much appreciated that she always felt we never rushed her; there was always plenty of time to listen, to hear her concerns, to make suggestions, to commiserate.

Selling a house is a big project. It involves time and money and emotion. This seller was heading in a new direction, a different life in a different state. She was excited and she

was committed to going to her new home but, like many others in her position, she grieved over the loss of the life she was used to. She'd lived in her house for 30 years, raised her children there, had loved her community and her friends. Now she was leaving, probably not to return.

She had a lot to think about, a lot to do. As she cleaned out cupboards and closets, gave away tools and leftover project materials, she worked on saying "goodbye."

Her family came and they revisited memories, good ones and sad. One grandchild asked if grandma was leaving him forever.

The inspectors told her about things that were wrong with the house. Some of these were problems she had, she thought, fixed long ago; others, such as the furnace, were surprises. There were moments when she bristled, hurried to the defense of her home.

Friends and neighbors reminisced, wished her well, wondered aloud if it was wise, at her age, to start again in a new place. She put off going to her hair cutter for a last haircut until the very end. "I'm so sorry to leave her," she told us. "I've known her since she was pregnant with her first child; he's a teenager now. And she knows how to cut my curly hair."

She sent out change of address cards to friends at a distance, then was sorry that she had for them called and wanted to know the whole story. She wasn't ready to tell the story yet. One foot was still here; the other wasn't quite in the new land yet.

She gave her blue couch to the church, the old upright piano to her grandson, and she rented a storage space for treasures she wouldn't need but couldn't give up. Then she

See GIFTS, Page B12



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Parents have tools to teach kids the financial facts of life

One of the first experiences many children have with money is the allowance they receive from their parents. Giving an allowance in exchange for performing household chores is a good way to teach them about it. It is only the first step. As you, there is more to money than just a paycheck. One of the biggest challenges in dealing with money is learning how to properly manage it. There are five steps to help your children learn responsibility with money:

Stop a budget

To avoid teaching children that anything they earn can be spent on luxury items, help them figure

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

An allowance is only the first step in teaching kids the value of a dollar.

how much money they can count on as regular income and how much needs to be put aside to pay expenses. For example, if you child is

old enough to drive, consider requiring him or her to pay for his or her own gas and car insurance. Younger teen-agers can be asked to pay for some of their clothing expenses. If their expenses exceed their income, help them come up with options to make up for the shortfall. For example, you might offer to increase their allowance if they do an extra chore.

Encourage saving

Instead of simply telling them they should save their allowance, take time to show them the benefits of savings. Begin by asking them to make a wish list of items they would like to have. Determine how much needs to be saved for each item, then divide the list between purchases

they would like to make in the next three months and those that will require a longer period to save. They should get in the habit now of saving 10 to 20 percent of all they earn.

Teach basic investing concepts

Explain that they can potentially boost the power of savings by investing. One way to teach this concept is to buy a few shares of stock in a company they are familiar with — such as a toy company or retail store. Show them how to look up the value of the company's shares in the newspaper and discuss why the company's stock might be rising or falling. If your child has earned income, he or she can open a Roth Individual Retirement Account or an

Education IRA in which you, the parent, is named as custodian. Make sure that you emphasize that investing entails risk and that stocks are investments best suited for long-term savings goals.

Discuss paying for college

When your child enters high school, include him or her in the process of planning the financial aspects of an education. Talk about the cost of attending different types of colleges (public or private) and how much your family can afford. Then ask your financial consultant to sit down with you and your child to devise a plan designed to meet this expense.

Set an example

One of the best ways to teach

your children to handle money responsibility is to model that behavior for them. Invite them to sit down with you as you pay your bills and be prepared to answer any questions they might have. Avoid using credit cards. Invest for your retirement by contributing to an IRA or your company's 401(k) plan.

Last but not least

Invest time in teaching your children about money.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and meet their investment goals. She can be reached at (510) 273-8851 or by e-mail at leila.gough@agedwards.com.

Architectural 're-creations' pale when the real thing is available

Owning a piece of History

By Mark Wilson



Mark Wilson
"Everybody knows the difference between the historic reality and a fantasy, don't they?"

And therein lies the problem with all of these so-called "re-creations." For all too many visitors, these pristine replicas become a substitution for the real thing. And sadly, many people often don't care about, or even recognize, the difference between authentic historic sites and imitations of them. The end result can be that when authentic historic struc-

tures — or even whole neighborhoods — are threatened with destruction, not enough people are willing to protest to save them from demolition.

A poignant example of this is the sad fate that befell Los Angeles' Bunker Hill district. Bunker Hill was a historic neighborhood just north of downtown that was full of Victorian and Edwardian era single family homes with lushly landscaped yards. Famous writers, such as Ray Bradbury, chose to live there.

Bunker Hill was also the site of the beloved Angel's Flight Railroad, a block-long railway that ran up and down one of the steepest hillsides of Los Angeles.

Angels Flight was one of the most popular attractions in the city for decades. It had been featured in a number of Raymond Chandler novels, and in Hollywood films, including "Double Indemnity" with Edward G. Robinson and Fred MacMurray. My family and I rode the elegant

See AUTHENTIC, Page B7



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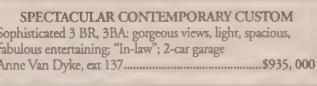
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2924 BENENUE AVE.

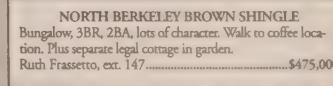
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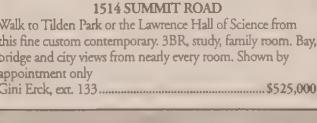
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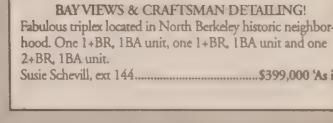
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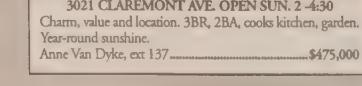
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'Reverse mortgage' makes the most of a home's equity

We had a call from a reader last week who wanted to know which would be better for her — a "reverse mortgage" or a regular line of credit.

The reader is a 69-year-old retired school teacher with an ailing husband. Her single-family home in Piedmont was worth about \$400,000 and they currently had about \$25,000 remaining on their current mortgage. Her real question was, "What is the best way to use the equity in my home?"

A reverse mortgage provides a way to borrow against home equity without repaying it monthly. This arrangement also guarantees residence in the home for life even if the loan is exhausted all equity.

To qualify, a homeowner must be 62 or older and must own the home free and clear or be able to pay off the existing mortgage. If the current mortgage is still enough and the equity is high enough, it can be paid off with the initial lump sum proceeds.

There are no income requirements and credit history is not considered. The home must be a single

Mortgage Madness

By Karen Senzig



Karen Senzig

"A reverse mortgage provides a way to borrow against home equity without repaying it monthly..."

family residence and be owner occupied.

The total amount of the reverse mortgage is determined by the value of your home, your age and life expectancy (the number of years you want the payments made to you) and the amount of money you may wish to receive every month.

Fannie Mae, that pseudo-government private agency that has been around for 50 years or so (and an-

nually sets the maximum conforming loan fees as well as guidelines for conforming loan products) set up the "home keeper mortgage."

Working with direct lenders, their reverse mortgage offers three payment plans and five specific guarantees.

You have options

■ **Tenure option.** You receive equal monthly payments for as long as you occupy the home as your principal residence.

■ **Line of credit option.** You draw upon the principal limit of cash available at times and in amounts of your choosing.

■ **Modified tenure option.** You may set aside a portion of loan proceeds as a line of credit and receive the rest in the form of equal monthly payments.

To determine the best loan amount through the home earnings plan you should ask your direct lender for actual payout figures for each option

and for each option and for different types of loans. Owning other properties gives you added leverage. You may want to consider selling those properties and paying off your existing mortgage. This would increase your reverse mortgage payout.

You have built-in guarantees

■ **You will receive monthly tax advances for life.** For example, if you are 75 years old and own a home with \$250,000 to \$275,000, a "Home earnings Reverse Mortgage" by Fannie Mae could provide you with more than \$1,100 per month of income for as long as you live in your home. In addition, you may set up a reserve account providing you have added financial security.

■ **You will have no payments due during your lifetime as long as you live in your home.** Like many other homeowners age 62 years and older, you've made mortgage payments for years. But with this plan, as long as

you live in your home, you'll have no repayment obligation.

■ **You will retain full ownership of your home.** With full title and ownership you can take advantage of future appreciation.

■ **You remain in your home as long as you wish.**

■ **Your other assets are protected through a limit on the total amount of the loan.**

When comparing the reverse mortgage to a line of credit from your local bank you need to consider your situation first. Your bank's line of credit is available at little or no cost, you do not have to pay off your existing mortgage and you have full control of your equity, however

you do have to qualify and you have good credit.

For more information on mortgages and specific lending, contact Fannie Mae Public Information at 3900 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20007-3511, or 1-800-7FANNIE (732-6333), or them about "Money from Mae," Fannie Mae's guide to home equity conversion mortgages.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of **Clair Clair Mortgage** with her husband, **Scott**. She can be reached at 339-8511, fax (510) 339-8511, or e-mail at KSenzig@acteon.com. Contact her with any mortgage questions for discussion.

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EL CERRITO

7501 EUREKA \$265,000

3BR, 2BA Kim Cleveland

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IN THE BERKELEY HILLS \$625,000

Gracious Tudor, beautifully remodeled with Bay views! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, includes huge master suite with jet spa. Lovely formal dining room with glass doors to deck, plus updated, tiled kitchen & sunny breakfast room. A must see!

CLASSIC STYLING

IN PIEDMONT \$450,000

High ceilings, moldings and hardwood floors. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with down stairs au pair, plus writer's studio in garden. Spacious rooms, wonderful location near shopping and schools.

BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN WITH

SPECTACULAR BAY VIEWS \$449,000

Spacious 3 level Mediterranean in the Berkeley hills. 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, with lots of flexibility. Downstairs Rec room, office, au pair! Nice sized back yard. Foundation and seismic work done.

TOTAL BERKELEY REMODEL \$299,000

Upstairs master suite to die for - fireplace, private deck, huge bathroom with jacuzzi tub, double shower and sauna. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors and carpet, 2-car garage. Near shops and transportation.

PERFECT GOLDEN GATE VIEW

FROM EL CERRITO \$265,000

Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with updated baths and kitchen, and hardwood floors. Large level lot in the El Cerrito hills. Walk to Fatapples. Near shopping & BART.

NORTH BERKELEY CONDO WITH VIEWS!

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JUST LISTED! Bright, quiet upper unit away from street noise! Spacious 1BR, 1BA with balcony. Near UC & Gourmet Galleria.

SPANISH BUNGALOW FIXER

IN BERKELEY \$159,000

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Mortgage brokers can help 'tarnished borrowers' recover

By Rene Boisvert

RIGHT TRACK FINANCIAL SYSTEMS
Your credit report may be full of red and you may have a history of foreclosure and bankruptcy, but you can get a loan for home purchase, refinance, or even cash out of your current home.

It doesn't matter whether you have charge-offs, collections or tax liens on your credit report, as long as you can meet the guidelines for approval by a multitude of lenders who specialize in the credit damaged borrower.

A team

The lending industry uses categories to assess the credit risk of any particular borrower. If the property looks good and you have sufficient time, impeccable credit and the required down payment you are considered an "A" borrower. An "A" borrower can walk into almost any lender and get a mortgage loan. A "B" borrower can fall short in one of these areas and still be considered a "B" borrower, as long as the other categories compensate for the weakness. For example, a borrower who exceeds the required monthly debt-to-income ratios could offer a larger down payment. Many lenders will also use modest credit blemishes if a reasonable explanation is provided. If you're in a job transition or have expensive medical problems, being 30-60 days late on one credit card is a typical blemish that might not baffle a lender.

But what about those who have serious marks against their credit? Depending on how tarnished the credit history has been, lenders typically place borrowers into following credit categories:

Credit
Good to excellent credit. Acceptable blemishes within the last two years. Charge-offs or collection accounts of minor amounts (usually

less than \$500 in all) are acceptable. Medical bills, including hospitalization and clinic visits are usually disregarded by the lender. As for payment habits, the borrower can have no more than two 30-day late payments, or one 60-day late payment on revolving or installment credit.

'B' credit

Reasonably good credit. Acceptable blemishes within the past 18 months: Up to four 30-day late payments, or up to two 60-day late payments are allowed on revolving or installment credit. If the credit ding is an isolated incident, a 90-day late payment is allowed within past 12 months. Charge-offs, or collection accounts which are isolated, insignificant and less than \$1,000 in all are acceptable.

Outstanding collection accounts less than four years old must be paid. Bankruptcy or foreclosure that had been discharged or settled previous to the 18 month time frame is allowed.

'C' credit

Significant past credit problems. Acceptable blemishes within the past 12 months include no more than six

30-day late payments, three 60-day late payments, or two 90-day late payments are allowed on revolving or installment credit.

Open collection accounts and charge-offs may not exceed \$4,000 and must be paid in full. Bankruptcy or foreclosure that had been discharged or settled prior to the last 12 months is acceptable.

'D' credit

Severe past credit problems include a sporadic disregard for timely payments. Open collection accounts, charge-offs, and judgments must be paid through the loan proceeds. The borrower who had filed bankruptcy and had been discharged prior to the last six months is acceptable, as much as the ex-homeowner who had his previous home foreclosed and settled prior to the last six months. However, mortgage payments generally cannot be longer than 90 days past due.

No 'hard and fast' rules

The above are general industry guidelines to make lending judgment on the borrower's loan application. There are no hard and fast rules of separating the borrower on the basis

of one credit category and another.

There are compromising variations between one lender to the next depending on the degree of subjectivity involved in underwriting and how much each lender wants to commit their funds.

Depending on the extent of the blemishes, borrowers with less than perfect credit histories can expect to pay higher than market interest rates for their home loan.

But if getting into a home or refinancing out of a bind is one's goal, there are plenty of lenders out there among whom the homebuyer or borrower can shop around to get the appropriate financing.

Borrowers usually find that a consultation with a mortgage broker will provide them tremendous benefit. As mortgage brokers typically deal with a multitude of lenders they will know

which lender will be best suited for a borrower's special set of credit circumstances.

It happens here, too

Recently an Oakland Hills resident found her way to my office. She had the unfortunate circumstance of being in a contentious divorce in which her soon to be ex-husband was not paying the required support. Her income alone (which was from self-employment and unverifiable) could not support her house payments and necessary living expenses.

She began falling behind on the house payments and her credit card obligations. Her home's lender, running out of patience, finally filed a Notice of Default to initiate foreclosure on her home.

Now, being a single parent, in a middle of a divorce, without verifiable income, bill collectors banging on her door, and her home in foreclosure this

Oakland hills resident was faced with the daunting task of finding and qualifying for a new home loan and having to find it quickly before the bank took her home.

This category of lateness and credit circumstances is normally considered a D credit, but in this case, with the assistance of a professional mortgage broker, her case was explained well to the lender. Her credit class was upgraded to better than C and her home was refinanced with terms within her means.

She has put her life back on track and is doing well.

Rene G. Boisvert is a licensed real estate broker with 19 years of local real estate experience. He can be reached at Right Track Financial Group, 510-444-8420, fax 510-444-3030 and rene@righttrack.com.

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23 HIGHLAND AVENUE NEW LISTING \$875,000

Fabulous Craftsman on a grand scale 5+ bedrooms, fenced back garden, partial Bay view. Charm galore and plenty of room for a crowd. KATHERINE COOPER



22 CRAIG AVENUE NEW LISTING \$1,150,000

You must see this classic Piedmont Traditional w/4 bedrooms/3 baths, cozy den, in-law unit & rumpus. Enjoy the beautiful updated kitchen & baths, gleaming hardwood floors & crown moldings. ELIZABETH DICKSON



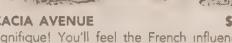
26 LITTLEWOOD DRIVE NEW LISTING \$795,000

Entertain on a grand scale or enjoy casual family living w/ 4200 sq. ft. of space, 5 bd, updated kitchen/family room & wonderful tranquil setting. LINDA MC CLAIN



118 WOODLAND WAY NEW LISTING \$795,000

Enchanting storybook English style home in delightful oak tree setting. Stone patios, charming gardens, 3+bedrooms/2 baths plus finished attic. CONNIE ROGERS



6032 ACACIA AVENUE \$749,000

C'est Magnifique! You'll feel the French influence in this Claremont Pines, 4 yr old custom home, built to merge practical family living with style & elegance. MAVIS DELACROIX

5927 ZINN DRIVE \$659,000

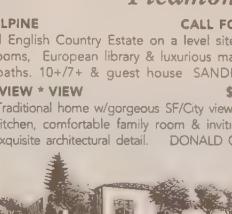
This new Montclair 5 bdrm/3 ba home features, family room adjacent to kitchen. French doors to rear yard, huge dining room, bay view & sunny terrace off master. DEBRA DRYDEN

1 SONIA STREET NEW LISTING \$410,000

Great neighborhood. Living room with beamed ceiling, lovely hardwood floors, separate dining room. Some Bay view. 3 bedroom/2 baths plus rumpus. HELEN BUTY

5178 PARKRIDGE DRIVE \$389,000

Expansive views of nature, easy access to trails, sidewalks and sun! Great home office could be 4th bedroom. Gorgeous kitchen. KATHERINE COOPER



308 ELWOOD AVENUE NEW LISTING \$310,000

Charming 3 bdrrms/2 bath Craftsman bungalow. Beautiful architectural detail. Eat-in kitchen, level yard. Close to transportation, restaurants & shops. JUDY CAIN

3825 HIGH STREET #205 \$159,500

Unique Mediterranean style condo. Lush environment w/waterfalls & bridges. 2 bdm/2 ba. Sf Bay & hill views. A WEI GRUBB



WILDWOOD GARDENS NEW LISTING \$839,000

A majestic residence with gracious formal rooms, high ceilings and gorgeous courtyard vistas - very stylish in a private setting. DONALD GRUBB JR

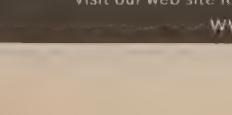
VINTAGE WITH GORGEOUS VIEWS \$819,000

This grand 5+ bdm/3 ba home has exquisite detail. Sunny outdoor living w/panoramic SF Bay views. D. GRUBB JR



ENCHANTING HIDEAWAY NEW LISTING \$539,000

Craftsman beauty in Central Piedmont w/exceptional use of color & stunning architecture. 4 bdm/2 ba, delightful kitchen w/breakfast room. KATHERINE COOPER



Oakland - Berkeley By Appointment

PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL \$729,000

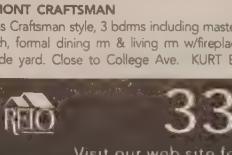
Filled with light, this Traditional home offers formal living & dining rooms, wonderful updated kitchen/family rm, 4+ bdrrms/3 1/2 baths & lovely garden. NANCY LEHRKIND

VIEW & POOL \$695,000

This inviting home is full of the amenities that enhance gracious living. Formal living room w/beamed ceiling, kitchen/fam rm, attractive gardens. 4 bdrrms/3 baths & office. MINDY SCOTT

GORGEOUS VIEWS \$675,000

A very comfortable home w/Bay & hill views. Level-in entry leads to grand living area, 3+ bdrrms/3 ba, spacious kitchen, secluded side garden. SHEILA GALLAGHER



PARADISE FOUND \$399,000

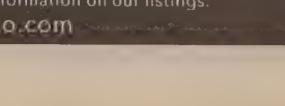
This stunning 3 bdm/2 ba Contemporary home is a work of art. Enjoy panoramic views from floor to ceiling windows with beautifully landscaped garden. MAVIS DELACROIX

SPACIOUS GLENVIEW HOME \$289,000

This charming Glenview home features 3 bdrrms/2 ba, baths, spacious living room w/fireplace, dining room w/built-ins & level back yard. SHERRY BENNINGER

LUXURY ON THE LAKE \$128,000

Spacious unit in elegant high-rise building with 24 hr doorman near Lake Merritt and transportation. B. BAILESTRIERI



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3825 High Street
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204 Unique one bedroom, one bath Mediterranean style condominium. Lush environment with waterfalls and bridges. Offered for \$89,000

205 Located high in the Oakland hills, this two bedroom, two bath condominium is situated within a lush gated environment. Waterfalls and walking bridges abound. Offered for \$149,500

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If employer isn't helping you move, know what to do on your own

By Conrad Bassett

Business and family goals often require that many people from the East Bay relocate to other parts of the country and abroad.

When it's a work-related move, most major corporations have relocation policies that cover almost every part of the move from the costs of the sale of the home to the household goods transportation to assistance with purchasing a new residence at the destination.

This assistance is designed to be kind to you and your family, yet the company has to keep an eye on its bottom line. It is very expensive to relocate an employee.

In areas such as Piedmont, Montclair, Alameda and Berkeley, the cost of housing easily can reach or exceed \$100,000. Let's look at an example:

The last few months in the hills have seen some home prices hover around \$500,000. If closing costs are around 7 percent (including commissions and recording fees and transfer taxes, etc.) it would cost a corporation around \$35,000 to sell the home.

Household goods costs could certainly exceed \$20,000 depending upon the size of the shipment, the types of goods being shipped (if they require special crating, for example) and the distance it is going. It could be much higher.

Finally there are the costs at the destination for closing costs to get a new loan (points, attorney/escrow fees or title costs, for example.)

On your own?

What happens if you are on your own with no corporate help, or you are moving at your own discretion? Let's look at ways where you can realize as many of the same benefits

and keep the costs down.

Remember, in relocating, you typically get what you pay for. The most important thing you can do is to have your home look as good as is possibly can. Take care of any deferred maintenance and make cosmetic repairs that can enhance value.

Experience shows that a home will sell quicker and at a higher price if it is in good condition. Most buyers want something they can move into with minimal cosmetic repairs ahead of them. In fact, in Atlanta, 40 percent of all new construction homes are bought by people relocating to the area. Most others relocating to the area also selected homes in top condition.

Don't invest too much

Don't spend tens of thousands on new kitchens and bathrooms and additions just prior to moving as these are typically capital improvements that take time to recuperate their value.

Also, stick to vanilla. If you are going to repaint or recarpet or rewallpaper, stick to lighter colors. If you over-personalize, you may scare potential buyers.

Remember that other than costs that are mandated by law (transfer taxes, recording fees and the like) nearly everything is negotiable.

Real estate commissions are negotiable by law. We typically think of commissions in the Bay Area as 6 percent. In many areas of the country the custom is 7 percent. Recently many companies have added on processing fees of a few hundred dollars to help in covering their overhead — this is in addition to the commission.

Depending upon the price of the home and the real estate market, you may be able to negotiate a lower commission. If the market is very

strong with limited supply and strong demand, you are in a better position.

But remember, real estate brokers are also out to make a living and they have costs associated with running a business. As real estate commissions are shared by the companies that participate in the sale, you want to make sure that the listing commission is reasonable and the selling commission being offered is proper incentive for that agent.

No one pays retail!

As far as household goods go, no one pays "retail." Corporations typically negotiate discounts that can approach or exceed 50 percent. However, the higher the discount, the more people this can affect — including the driver and the crew. Don't be penny-wise and pound-foolish.

Sell your old home before you buy a new one. Carrying one home can be expensive: two can be downright ugly. It also puts you in the position of being the one offering good terms and prices to a savvy buyer.

Conrad Bassett is vice president and director of operations for AmeriCorp Relocation Management in Walnut Creek. He can be reached at (925) 377-7356.

Orchid Society to celebrate Moms' Day

The Orchid Society of California's annual Mothers' Day Show and Sale is gearing up. A great variety of orchids will appeal to orchid novices and the discriminating collector.

The Society will stage displays with exotic flowers from all over the world. Also planned are potting demonstrations, cultural information and supplies and a raffle. Admission is free.

Where

Lakeside Park Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

When

Friday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information

For more information on this and other Orchid Society functions, please call 510-538-8632.



THIS colorful cross between Tiger Hamburgen and Oda Flame Embers will be among the varieties of orchids on display and for sale at the Orchid Society's annual Mothers' Day weekend May 7 to 9.

Please read, then recycle



10 HARBORD CT. • \$419,000

Cute home on quiet cul-de-sac. 3BD, 2BA. LR with fireplace, plank wood floors, master suite, filtered bay view, fenced yard.



3820 BEAUMONT AVE. • \$295,000

Glenview craftsman. 3BD/2BA, lots of built-ins. 1st floor has 1BD/1BA, den, kitchen, LR/DR, 2nd floor 2BD/1BA, own entrance.



6525 CHELTON DR. • \$495,000

Original owner home. 4BD/3BA. Huge rec room. Hardwood floors updated, baths, new roof, new sewers. Lots of storage.

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TORILL HARGE 287-9882

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\$465,000
Over 2500 sq. ft. with soaring ceilings, unique rooms. Perfectly built 12 years ago, with 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 fireplaces, many decks, and a perfect au pair with separate entrance. See it today!

JIM SCHUBERT 287-9576

180° BAY VIEW!! - A-1 CONDITION...

\$365,000
Brown Shingle townhome, 3BR, 3BA, remodeled kitchen with family room. Darkroom, maximum privacy, close to schools, shopping, freeways.

MARTHA SHIN 287-9806



JUST LISTED - RUSTIC CONTEMPORARY \$489,000

A rare treat awaits you with this Montclair gem, hidden from view & mellowed with exterior & interior woods & views of surrounding trees. 3BR, 2+BA, 12,147 sq. ft. lot, beautifully landscaped level lot with various sitting areas. Don't miss this!

NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670



JUST LISTED, BEAUTY WHICH ENDURES \$339,000

Charming, Oakmore Cottage. A combo of romance & sound architecture. Relax in tranquility, backyard to sound of a waterfall or star gaze from observation platform above the private deck.

PATRICIA BENNETT 482-9000

NEW ON MARKET!..... \$365,000

Grass Valley Rancher on corner lot. Spacious 4BR/2.5BA family home with fireplace. Large kitchen and side yard perfect for boat or RV.

MARIA SINCLAIR 287-9596

151 OPEN - SUNNY DISPOSITION \$249,000

Wonderful San Leandro, 3BR, 2BA north area location. Updated kitchen, spacious family room, glorious yard.

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512 Mitchell.



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Shown By Appointment

BEAUTIFUL & UNIQUE \$1,625,000

Located in Danville, this Mediterranean "villa" on over 5 acres of Camino Tassajara has 4BR/3.5BA, 4,800 sq. ft., wine cellar, pool, spa, waterfall. Hand plastered walls, "old world" charm.

MIRA GOETSCH (925) 837-2200

EXCLUSIVE VINEYARD HEIGHTS! \$1,475,000

Rare French Normandy Fremont Castle nestled on a sparkling creek overlooking acres of Mission Peak Regional Park. Features 5BR, 4BA, 5200 sq. ft., library, parlor, formal living, formal dining & gourmet kitchen.

MIRA GOETSCH (925) 837-2200

BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION \$1,300,000

Spectacular Lafayette home on a fabulous setting surrounded by ancient oaks with great views using the finest materials, the best appliances, marble, oak & granite. There is still time to personalize it regarding colors and some other items. It's a show place.

FRANCISCO G. CABRITA (925) 837-2200

SEVEN ACRES OF PRIVACY \$1,295,000

Exclusive Pleasanton Foothill Road neighborhood near Stoneridge. "Old World" style, 4,000 sq. ft. estate offers 4BR plus den, 3+ fireplaces. Separate retreat cottage. Exquisite marble, granite & details throughout. Stone pool & water fall.

BRENDA MCDONALD (925) 837-2200

ABOVE IT ALL! \$895,000

A low price for a 4,400 sq. ft. updated home on almost 2 acres in Westside Danville. Huge oaks, brick pavers & decks, pool, rec room with giant spa & spectacular views! You'll never want to leave. Hurry!

LIZ EASTWOOD (925) 837-2200

ONE YEAR NEW! \$869,000

Exceptional Blackhawk home w/ marble entry, 5BR, 3.5BA, FDR, center island cooktop in kt., marble kitchen, large family room w/ fireplace connecting to sunroom. Gorgeous pool w/ waterfall & spa.

BRENDA MCDONALD & ALBERT OLSON (925) 837-2200

JUST BUILT..... \$599,000

A new home of outstanding merit. Situated on a quiet street in Piedmont Pines area of Montclair, it offers 3700 sq. ft. of luxury. 4+BR, 4.5BA, maple floors, Italian marble throughout, granite fireplace, decks, each BD has its own bath.

NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670

PRICED REDUCED!..... \$369,000

Charming Spanish Mediterranean w/ some bay views. Wood beamed ceilings, large family room, bar area. 3BR, 2.5BA, very nice patio w/ terrace.

NONI ROBINSON 287-2573

POPULAR CROCKER HIGHLANDS..... \$349,000

Recently remodeled with view, terraced gardens. 3BA, 2BA, immaculate & ready to move into!

CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 287-9888

ATTENTION INCOME BUYERS..... \$310,000

This great triplex is in good condition & has everything you need. Owner lives in 1 unit, rent the other. Located & convenient to just about anything. Please drive by first. Call agent at 485-4651.

PEARL WONG

289/1BA occupied unit - 2-BR/1BA units. Excellent condition close to 580 freeway. Located on a corner lot of Montclair.

A.D. NASSIRI 531-1670

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HANDSOME DUPLEX..... \$295,000

Excellent condition, 3BR/1BA & 2BD/1BA units. Close to 580 & Park Blvd. Motivated seller, make an offer.

A.D. NASSIRI 531-1670

POCKET HIGH RENT..... \$285,000

From this classic 4-plex. All 3BR/1BA units, lots of upgrades. Upcoming area. Quiet tenants. Call today.

ARNOLD MUELLER

404 PLAZA

CONTEMPORARY CONDO..... \$285,000

Nice well kept 2-BR/1.5BA condo. Includes refrigerator, washer, dryer. Close to freeways & public transportation.

A.D. NASSIRI

NEW LISTING..... \$285,000

Sunny, 1BR/1BA condo unit, located in a quality building close to shopping & transportation.

PEARL WONG

1540 MONTEREY BLVD.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME..... \$285,000

Large Monterey Blvd. lot, with all utilities on. Between S.F. & Oakland, San Mateo lights. Located on a cul-de-sac.

ALLIE HOLLOWAY

CONTEMPORARY CONDO..... \$285,000

Nice well kept 2-BR/1.5BA condo. Includes refrigerator, washer, dryer. Close to freeways & public transportation.

A.D. NASSIRI

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CONTEMPORARY CONDO..... \$285,000

Nice well kept 2-BR/1.5BA condo. Includes refrigerator, washer, dryer. Close to freeways & public transportation.

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Off and running



At the Oakland Public Library's Kathleen Hirooka (center) watches as Nahid Nassiri (right) presents a \$3,000 donation to C.J. Hirschfield, also of the library. Hirschfield says she hopes Nassiri's gift will inspire others.

Realtor answers library challenge

Staff report

Nahid Nassiri is a true friend of the Oakland Public Library. The senior partner at Montclair Homes Realty was the first local merchant to contribute to the funds of the Oakland Public Library's fund-raising drive aimed at finishing the expanded children's wing in the Montclair Branch. The expansion underway at the branch was paid for by Measure I, a

general obligation bond passed by voters in 1996, and will provide more space to accommodate the crowds that flock to the library for its popular Children's Story Time.

Money from Measure I, however, covers only structural work and not furnishings. Nassiri's \$3,000 donation, combined with what the Friends hope to raise from the community, will buy chairs and tables to fill the new space.

Added to the \$5,492 already collected, Nassiri's donation is a solid

first step on the way to the \$38,000 needed for the furnishings.

Those who wish to support the Friends of the Oakland Public Library's fund-raising effort should contact C.J. Hirschfield at 339-1808, or Kathleen Hirooka at 238-6713. Donations are welcome by mail at Friends of the Oakland Public Library, Montclair Branch, 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Those who donate \$100 or more will have their names displayed on a plaque in the library.

Authentic

FROM PAGE B3

turn-of-the-century rail cars many times when we lived in Southern California in the 1960s. Then in the late 1960s, Los Angeles city planners and developers concocted a master plan for the Bunker Hill district that called for the demolition of all the historic structures there, and the construction of several glass-and-steel soulless corporate towers.

Public wasn't moved

Only minor protests greeted their plan, which was set into motion.

In what many Angelinos now agree was a great mistake, hundreds of Victorian era homes were demolished, including the one Ray Bradbury rented. The Angel's Flight Railway also was dismantled and temporarily kept in a warehouse.

As one architectural guide to Los Angeles read in the mid-1970s, "Although the Angel's Flight Railroad is now in storage, there appears to be little interest at the moment in re-installing it."

Several years after the railway was dismantled, the parts and equipment of the original Angel's Flight were sold off to buyers from out of the area. Then in the early 1990s, there was a sudden revival of interest in this lost relic of a bygone era.

So, as often happens with historic structures in Southern California, a plan was implemented to build a full-scale, working replica of the railway.

Cost was real

A few years ago, this re-creation of the Angel's Flight Railroad was opened to the public. An article in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's magazine described how the old railroad cars were reproduced "down to the most painstaking detail," and at a cost of several hundred million dollars!

Few people seemed to be bothered that this replica was merely a Disneyland-like fantasy that replaced the original object, which could have been preserved at a fraction of the cost.

As for the historic houses that once graced Bunker Hill, an equally bizarre fate befell the few of them that survived the wrecking ball.

Homes fenced off

A handful of the most wonderfully opulent Queen Anne and Stick Eastlake style homes were moved off of Bunker Hill and kept for some time behind a barbed wire fence in a no-man's land between several freeway interchanges at the edge of downtown.

Eventually, these venerable survivors were hauled several miles north to a plot of land off of the Pasadena Freeway, where they then were left sitting unrestored for years.

As of a year or so ago, there were still no concrete plans to repair, sell

or carry out an adaptive re-use on any of these historic homes.

Some of the finest historic treasures in Southern California remain neglected and unused for decades, while hundreds of "faux Victorians" are being built all over the Greater Los Angeles Area.

What lessons can we learn?

Obviously, something is terribly askew here. Those of us who believe that it is important to preserve the "authentic" pieces of our history, should learn some valuable lessons from stories like these.

Preservationists and concerned citizens of cities in Northern California should not be complacent. Unhappy fates such as the one that befell the Bunker Hill district can happen here. In fact, they have happened in the not-too-distant past.

See AUTHENTIC, Page B12

NEW LISTING

99 Crocker Avenue,
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This wonderful Mediterranean home, has been totally restored from top to bottom. Enhanced by natural light, spacious rooms and high ceilings, the formal living room, kitchen and family room open level out to a lovely tiled patio.

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New listing! Elegant 1912 craftsman on corner lot, master suite w/pf, unfinished attic & basement. Lee Jacobson

75 Starview Dr., Hiller Highlands - 3BD/2+BA.....\$495,000
Smashing contemporary townhouse, partial Bay view, granite counters, lovely garden. Bonnie Hirsch

1087 Ardmore Ave., Crocker Highlands - \$447,000
Newer - built in 1980, light & bright, appox. 1800 sq. ft., att. garage. Todd & Katy VanLanen 925-743-9330

6125 Skyline Blvd., Montclair - 3+BD/2+BA.....\$439,000
Spacious contemporary w/high ceilings, master suite, SF view from new deck. Chuck Corwin

3680 Virden, Rdwd. Heights - 4BD/2+BA.....\$379,000
Bay view contemporary with large back yard, cozy family room with fireplace. Kathy Flynn

5337 Manila Ave., Rockridge - 3BD/1BA.....\$369,000
New listing! Outstanding craftsman with 1914 charm, remodeled kitchen, lg. att. & basement. Donna DeBardi

3286 Crane Way, Joaquin Miller - 2+BD/2BA.....\$339,000
New listing! Enjoy views/sunshine from well-maintained home, kitchen/FR combo, level yard. Dick & Sandi

2245 Phelham Pl., Montclair - 2BD/1BA.....\$299,000
New listing! Dramatic contemporary in peaceful setting w/parkland vistas, cathedral ceilings. Teri Carlisle

4206 Dunsmuir Ave., Redwood Hts. - 3BD/2BA.....\$274,500
Charming traditional w/formal dining room, hardwood floors, great street. Diane Earl McCann

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HADDEN HILL\$255,000
Charming 2BD/1BA with remodeled kitchen, sunroom, large yard with deck, hill views. Tom Wurst

PARKWOODS\$238,000
Lovely upgraded 2BD/2BA Carmel model, top floor, 2 master suites, fireplace, 2-car garage. Joanna Gould

COMING SOON

COMING SOON

COMING SOON

COMING SOON

CROCKER HIGHLANDS.....\$525,000
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MONTCLAIR
Beautifully remodeled, all-level 3BD/2BA home w/new kit/FR, new master suite, level yard. Robyn Mohr

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Salvage balky double-hung windows with elbow grease

You'll preserve distinct flavor of home, neighborhood architecture

Probably no feature of a house does more to define its architectural style than its windows. The tall hooded windows of an Italianate Victorian, the distinctive three-part front window of a Bungalow, the casement windows of a Tudor: all are important elements of the architecture.

Replace them with something else, and the house begins to look "wrong." Yet they are often replaced, often for the simple reason that the original windows didn't work right — didn't open easily, didn't stay open.

Window replacement is not inexpensive, and many companies will be happy to convince you to spend thousands of dollars on replacement windows, since that is how they make money.

In reality, however, most old wooden windows can be repaired. It doesn't cost much if you do it yourself, and it also maintains the look of your house.

The most common window type in older homes is the double-hung window. They're classics, and deserve to be restored with care.

See what you're dealing with

A double-hung window has two sashes (a sash is the wooden frame that holds the glass) that move up and down in channels. Sash cords in channels on the side of the sash run through pulleys at the top of the window, and are connected to sash weights in pockets inside the wall, which counterbalance the weight of the sash so it doesn't crash down on your fingers. The channels are formed by the parting bead or strip, a thin piece of wood that sits in a slot in the jamb (the side of the window

Urban Renewal

By Jane Powell

frame) and separates the two sashes, and the stop, a piece nailed to the jamb on the interior side, at right angles to the casing (the interior trim around the window).

The most common problems with these windows are broken sash cords, being painted shut, cracked or broken glass, or rot and fungus damage in the wood.

Get the right tools

Here are the tools and supplies you will need to fix a double-hung window:

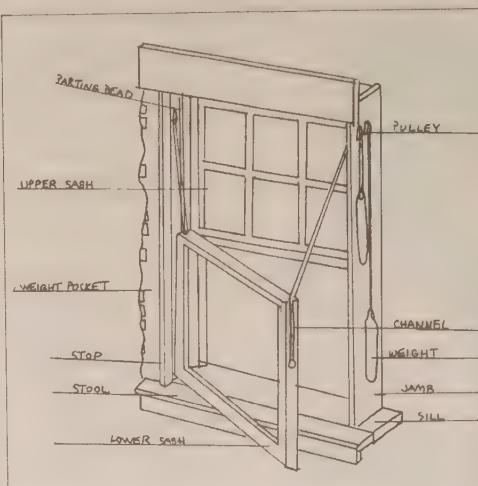
Stiff-bladed putty knife (a 5-in-1 tool, available at paint stores, works well); hammer; flat pry bar; utility knife; slotted screwdriver; sash cord (1/4" or 5/16" diameter); 4d & 8d finishing nails; WD-40 or other lubricant; sash cord; locking pliers.

Off you go

If the window is only painted shut, it's an easy fix. Slide the putty knife between the sash and the stop to break the paint film. You may have to hammer it in.

Work your way around the sash — you may also need to break the film between the sash and the stool (the inside window sill) and between the upper and lower sash at the top. If you're lucky, it was only painted shut on the inside, and you will now be able to open it. It also helps to lubricate the channels within which the sash slides. Paraffin, soap or WD-40 will do the trick.

When you're painting, do not paint



DETAILS of a double-hung window should help in repairs.

the sash channels. The paint buildup will keep the sash from sliding.

If the window is also painted shut on the outside, you will need to go outside, you will need to go outside and repeat the process. If it's a second floor window, remove the sash.

If the sash cords are broken, you will have to remove the sashes. Using the putty knife, pry off one or both of the interior stops. This will allow the lower sash to be removed. Pull the sash cord out of the channels (the knot may be attached with a finishing nail — pry it out with the screwdriver).

If only one cord is broken, allow the other one to ride up — the knot will prevent it from going through the pulley. To remove the top sash,

carefully pull out the parting bead on one side, starting at the bottom (locking pliers work well for this).

When you get about halfway up, lower the top sash to the bottom of the window and pull the rest of the parting bead out from the top. If you're lucky, it won't break, but if it does, go down to the lumberyard and get another piece.

Then remove the top sash. There are two ways to get to the sash weights. Some windows have a removable pocket cut into the jamb (usually held with a screw) for access to the weight pocket. These are generally more trouble than they're worth. The other way to access the weights is by prying off the inside

casings — do this carefully to avoid damaging the surrounding plaster.

Remove the nails from the stops and the casings by pulling them through from the back — removing them from the front will cause visible damage.

With the side casings removed, the weight pockets should be exposed. It's best to replace all the cords, even the ones that aren't broken.

Remove the weights and cut the old sash cords off them. Cut new sash cord to length, a little bit longer than the existing cord. (It frays, so wrap a piece of tape around the end first.) Tie a knot close to one end: the knot will fit into a hole drilled in the side of the sash. Run the other end through the pulley and down into the weight pocket. Start with the upper sash.

Once the cords are through the pulleys, put the knots into the holes on the side of the sash, press the cord into the channels, then fit the sash into the window and push it up to the top (a helper is useful here).

Tie the other end of the cord to the weight, using a double or triple knot. Make sure that the weight hangs just above the sill — it should not touch.

Once both weights are attached, run the sash up and down a few times to make sure it slides smoothly — it should go all the way down without the weight hitting the pulley.

Almost there

This is a good time to squirt a little lubricant on the pulleys. Then, with the sash pushed down to the

sill, reinsert the parting bead. It's a bit tricky because a slide between the jamb and a triangular molding on the sill. Once the sash is replaced in the same

slot. It's a bit tricky because a slide between the jamb and a triangular molding on the sill. Once the sash is replaced in the same slot, it's a bit tricky because a slide between the jamb and a triangular molding on the sill. Once the sash is replaced in the same

Let the sun shine in

If you're lucky, that was the window needed, and you're done. Even if you had to go out and buy the tools, you've spent maybe less than the cost of a new window.

You've also maintained the architectural integrity of your neighborhood.

Jane Powell specializes in historic restoration of bungalows, Arts and Crafts houses, and other Arts and Crafts houses. She also consults on restoration colors, and her particular expertise, period kitchens. A time preservationist, she is a vice president of the Oakland Arts and Crafts Alliance. She can be reached by telephone at 510-895-3804 or e-mail at jpowell@pacbell.net.



8 Wildwood Garden

Piedmont

NEW
LISTING



EVENTS

Thursday, April 1 through Saturday, April 24

Christmas in April. Skilled volunteers needed! Carpenters, plumbers, get out your tools. Christmas in April needs your help for this year's home repair projects. Homes will be rehabilitated throughout the month. Christmas in April is a local charity group dedicated to helping disadvantaged elders live comfortably and safely in their own homes. Call (510) 644-8979.

Thursday, April 22

Plaster master. Artisan Art Guerrero presents "Distinctive Plaster Finishes" 7 p.m. at Builder's Booksource, 1817 Fourth St., Berkeley. Call (510) 845-6874.

Ongoing

Credit counseling. Consumer Credit

Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. For more information call (800) 501-SAVE. Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the free guided walking tours sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call (510) 238-3234.

Sick plant clinic. Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call (510) 643-2755.

Homebuyer seminars. Russell Dol of the Mortgage Network hosts free First Time Homebuyer Seminars. Learn about the many first-time homebuyer programs available today. Find out just

how much home you can afford to buy. Call (510) 526-6554 for reservations.

We accept event announcements on a space-available basis. Fax list-

ings for this section to (510) 339-4066, write 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94619 or send e-mail to jsnyder1@cctimes.com.

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The classic floor plan of this Mediterranean home offers a gracious entry, formal dining room and lovely living room with French doors leading to a spacious garden. This three bedroom, two bath home also features a library/office upstairs and a master bedroom with sewing room.

Call for price

The GRUBB Co.

REALTORS
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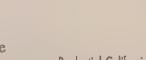
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VIEWS & SUNSHINE



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PACIFIC UNION



EXT. 314

PACIFIC UNION

Be sure to inspect your home inspector's qualifications

By John Schneider
and Toni Wilson

We are continually asked by prospective home buyers and sellers what to look for when hiring a home inspector. It is very important when selecting someone to inspect a property for you that you ask questions to determine the inspector's qualifications.

The home inspection industry for the most part is unregulated in California. However, last year Senate Bill 258 was passed and for the first time established the definition of what a home inspection is and what it would entail.

It says that home inspections would reflect the standards of the American Society of Home Inspectors and the California Real Estate

Inspectors Association, in order to bring some uniformity as to how inspection reports are written and what was to be inspected.

Besides clarifying what a home inspection is, SB 258 also provides some protection for consumers. It provides a four-year window for the inspector to be liable for misrepresentations in a report, and forbids the inspector from limiting his liability to the cost of the inspection. The inspector also cannot solicit or perform any repair work on a property he has inspected.

While the passage of this law is a start, it offers no guarantee to the consumer that the person they hire is qualified.

Performing a home inspection is a highly specialized skill that requires

an extensive background in the building trades and a thorough understanding of how a house is built and performs over time.

The inspector has to be aware of health and safety requirements concerning modifications to buildings as well as being able to clearly communicate his opinions and findings to the clients.

To find the right inspector for you, do some research. Check the phone book under 'Building Inspection' and make some calls. Talk with your agent or friends to get referrals. Make a list of any questions that you may have. Two of the most important questions you should ask are how long the inspector has been in business and how many inspections they have performed?

Our experience in hiring and training inspectors has shown us that an inspector needs to have performed at least 500 inspections before he is at a basic skill level. You will also want to know what their qualifications are. If they say that they are "certified," ask by whom and what was required for certification. There are many schools and franchises that can sell a certification with two or three weeks of training.

Ask if they belong to any professional organizations such as the American Society of Home Inspectors or the California Real Estate Inspector Association. If they say that they are a licensed contractor, architect or engineer, get their license number and then verify it with the State License Board.

Find out how long the inspection takes and what the inspection includes. Will the information be presented in a typed written report or will you be presented with a checklist? Does the inspection company stand behind the accuracy of their reports and what is their policy if something is missed? By the time that you are finished asking these questions, you will have a good impression of whether or not the person you are talking to is right for you.

Remember: You need to feel comfortable with the person you choose. So spend the time it takes to do some research and find someone qualified. Protect yourself and your investment by becoming involved in the selection process.

For those of you who would like

more information on how to hire a home inspector, we have a questionnaire and can explain home inspection to you. To look for in an inspection report, requesting the Consumer Home Inspections to All About Homes, c/o Hills Newsprint, 1000 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94612. Fax your request to 510-482-5110.

John Schneider and Toni Wilson operate All About Homes, a home inspection company specializing in construction and code compliance service. They have over 20 years of combined experience in construction and construction industry.

Selling is traumatic enough; homework can eliminate variables

Moving from the home in which you and your family have lived, loved and grown can be traumatic. Through the years, your home has become an extension of you and your life experiences. Many people find that selling their home is much like giving up a part of themselves, despite the excitement of new challenges, neighborhoods, and friends.

But selling your home does not have to be a nightmare. Once you have made the difficult decision to move, your home becomes a house — a piece of real estate, which needs to be sold.

Removing the emotion from your home should help you concentrate more objectively on the finer points of selling a house.

An essential first step is to have a comparative market analysis done on your house.

This information details the current housing market in your area, showing you what houses similar to yours have sold recently.

The market analysis should also list your "competition" houses. These are homes like yours that are also on the market. With this information, you will also want to consider the following points before deciding:

Location

This is an important factor in pricing. Look at both the area in which the house is located as well as the surrounding neighborhood. Does the house back up to a busy street, is it on a cul-de-sac, etcetera?

Features

Does your house have specific features that set it apart from other houses in the area, such as a spectacular view, a pool, mirrored closets, room additions and other amenities?

Home's condition

Has the house been adequately maintained during your stay? Are there minor or major repairs that

Real Estate Forum

By Ion Stoica



Ion Stoica
"A listing agreement is a binding contract. Read it through carefully and ask questions before you sign."

could make a difference in the immediate sale of your house?

Age of the house

Potential buyers will want to know the age of the plumbing, furnace, roof, appliances, etc. If anything has been replaced, this could add to the value of your property and the sales price.

The current market

Is today's market a buyer's or seller's market? A buyer's market means there are several similar houses for a buyer to choose from. Usually, interest rates are attractive, and prices are steady. In a seller's market, opposite factors are at play.

While interest rates may be low or high, housing prices are on the rise, and there are few houses to be sold.

Time frame

How long do you have to sell this house? What was the average time on the market for a comparable home? Can you wait while a buyer arranges financing? Does your purchase of another home depend upon this deal closing quickly?

With these points in mind, you should be able to determine a fair price for your house. A word of caution: Avoid the temptation to pad the price excessively, thinking that it gives you negotiating room.

Most buyers have limitations on

how much they can spend. If your property out-prices other houses in the neighborhood, it could remain on the market longer than you wish.

Even though you may be planning to lower the price later, studies show that the longer a house is on the market, the lower the price at which it is finally sold, compared to the original list price.

Although not a specific part of the price-setting process, concerns about the amount of profit realized from the sale, tax regulations regarding the sale of property, and settlement or closing costs should be addressed.

This is particularly true in markets with lots of FHA and VA buyers, or areas where the seller absorbs any lender points.

The bottom line

Anticipated costs of selling include the mortgage payoff amount, any early payoff penalty, the real estate broker's fee, other loans against the property (perhaps for a pool or a room addition), the price of inspections, taxes, and other seller's closing costs.

Your net profit can be estimated by subtracting these costs from the sales price. But remember, this is only an estimate. Any change in the numbers or closing date will alter the final figure.

Closing costs

Closing costs will vary from area to area. Your sales associate can pro-

vide categories and the approximate amounts of settlement costs you will be expected to pay. These may include various fees and miscellaneous closing costs negotiated by the buyer to be paid by the seller.

The listing agreement

After choosing a real estate company, you are ready to sign the listing agreement. This agreement will state how much brokerage fee, or "commission" shall be paid, who will receive it, who has the right to produce potential buyers, and how long the agreement is valid.

It should also include a list of personal property that will go with the house. The length of the listing contract will vary.

In the "Exclusive Right to Sell" agreement, the listing company is entitled to a commission regardless of who sells the property. If another office produces a buyer, the commission you pay is shared between the two companies.

A listing agreement is a binding contract. Read it through carefully and ask question until you understand every part of the agreement before signing.

Review financing options

When the time comes to negotiate a sale, it is best to be aware of current financing available to the buyer. With the help of your real estate professional, review the mortgage climate—there are loans in abundance

or hard to obtain?

If the buyer is not able to qualify for enough money, you may want to offer a second mortgage out of your profits (if this is allowed by the first lender).

Does your property qualify for FHA/VA loans? Is your current loan assumable?

Does the buyer expect you to pay any of the discount points connected with the cost of this loan? Determine your time limits and waiting for financing to be secured by the buyer, including the alternatives.

Pest/termite inspections

In many states, pest inspections and termite reports are required before a house can be sold. Even if these inspections are not state mandated, most lenders will require them. If termites are discovered, there must be eradicated, and the proof documented. Inspection prices

vary. Shop around for a reliable company with your sales associate laws on your state.

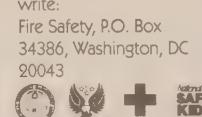
Ion Stoica is a Realtor with Century 21 Korp and Associates. If you purchase or sell a property with him you will receive a vacation celebration bonus when escrow closes. Call him at 510-278-2020 or email him at istoica@fhu.com.

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ALAMEDA
1349 PARK ST. Two-story building. Formerly the Cafe Restaurant and office space on 2nd Fl. The structure has been renovated. Approx. 5,900 sq. ft. **CALL INFORMATION**
201 PACIFIC AVE. 3-story building. Formerly the Cafe Restaurant and office space on 2nd Fl. The structure has been renovated. Approx. 5,900 sq. ft. **SELL** by appt. only. **REDUCED** \$139,000.
7 KINGSBURY CT. 2 BA. Marina Village plus bedroom, lagoon view. **REDUCTION** \$330,000.
3 UNITS. 2112 LINCOLN. 2 BA. 2114 A & 2114 B. **SELL**. lot, site plans available for additional units. \$439,500.
SAN LEANDRO
14234 OUTRIGGER DR. 2 1/2 BA. **PENDING** \$210,000.
14415 SEAGATE DR. Model 3 B. **PENDING** garage att. \$230,000.
14178 OUTRIGGER DR. 2 1/2 BA. **PENDING** \$210,000.

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Nearly 26 percent of the fires that kill children are started by children playing with matches or lighters. Help protect your family by keeping matches and lighters out of children's reach.

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OF HOMES & APARTMENTS 528-9292

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934 Shattuck, Berkeley

New Listing! Stately, solid North Berkeley craftsman home with spectacular view of the Bay & city lights. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, spacious living room with coffered ceiling & stone fireplace, large formal dining room, newly refinished hardwood floors in living & dining rooms, remodeled eat-in kitchen with center island & Jenn-Air range/grill, sun porch with sweeping views, finished basement space includes office.

Priced at \$535,000



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Catch us on the net, where your home can be viewed by over 23 million people worldwide! <http://listinglink.com> or e-mail us at hborbay@hborbay.com

Oakland

\$5,000 5744 GASKILL. Single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath with fireplace, some hard wood and detached garage. To be sold as is. Martha Turner 814-4828

\$108,000 1532 16th AVE. Victorian style cottage! Two bedrooms, 1 bath, large eat-in kitchen, large front porch, front door, large back yard. Russ Grant 814-4713

\$119,000 3844 MAYBELLE. Large 2 BD, 1 1/2 BA condo in a neighborhood with fireplaces, some hard wood and detached garage. To be sold as is. Martha Turner 814-4828

\$133,000 6472-74 MARTHUR. Two townhouses in a good condition! Both units are 1 BD. Close to Mills College. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

\$145,000 375 JAYNE AVE. #203. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo near Lake Merritt! Formal living & dining room, fireplace, security building a garage parking space. Donn Gutierrez 814-4854

\$152,000 2110 BAXTER ST. Single level bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, in cul-de-sac location! Great starter home, many windows, finished basement and off street parking. To be sold as is. Martha Turner 814-4828

\$235,000 2467 HIGHLAND AVE. Corner grocery store with 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath in owner's unit upstairs. Lois Vickland 814-4819

\$399,000 1431 TRESTLE GLEN RD. Beautiful Crocker Highlands home with 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, formal room, large Master suite, fireplace, hardwood floors, and 2-car garage with long driveway. Fred Christensen 814-4811

\$529,000 2520 BENEDICT DR. Neighborhood. Very nice 3+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, plus room off the eat-in kitchen. Large family room with fireplace, attached garage. Martha Turner 814-4840

\$399,000 2065 ORION CT. 3 months old! 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, city lights location! Large family room with fireplace, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, large family room with fireplace, attached garage. Jean Powers 814-4828

\$175,000 2216 ROME CT. 2 bedroom, 2 bath home, city lights location! Large family room with fireplace, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, large family room with fireplace, attached garage. Fred Christensen 814-4706

Pittsburg

\$587,000 10 CRESTA BLANCA DR. SUN. 2-5. Traditional charm, updated setting! Sunken living and dining room, fireplaces, master retreat, large family room with fireplace, attached garage. Margie Hirsch 814-4701

Orinda

\$210,000 14178 OUTRIGGER DR. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Seagate

1/2 BA. garage. Margie Hirsch 814-4829

When an opportunity falls into your lap, get organized — quickly

Real Estate Forum

Dian Hymer

"The landlord called to say she needed to sell the house for personal reasons..."

Joe and Chris rented a house they liked for a couple of years. In fact, they had discussed buying it from the current out-of-area owner should she ever decide to sell.

On short notice, from the tenant's standpoint, the landlord called to inform Joe and Chris that she needed to sell the house quickly for personal reasons. Knowing that Joe and Chris were fond of the home, the landlord offered the tenants the first right to

buy the home before she listed it on the open market.

Joe and Chris met the new with mixed feelings. They had been thinking of buying a home about a year down the road, when they might feel more secure in their finances.

Chris had just finished graduate school and was beginning a new career. Joe had a longer job history, but savings were a bit skimpy considering the price of the home and the

various costs associated with buying a home (typically called "closing costs.")

Buying a home usually requires a cash down payment of about 3 percent to 20 percent of the purchase price, plus closing costs which can include such items as loan origination fees, homeowner's insurance, interest charges, transfer taxes (where they apply), and title and settlement charges (some of which may

be paid by the sellers depending on the location).

Getting the cash together was a scramble. But it was accomplished by combining gift money from parents and borrowing against Joe's 401(k) retirement plan.

A major issue for Joe and Chris was whether or not the seller's asking price was reasonable for the market. As much as the tenants liked the house, they didn't want to overpay for

it. So they enlisted the aid of a couple of agents who gave them a tour of homes listed for sale in the area.

Joe and Chris looked at homes within the immediate area as well as homes in other areas that might suit their needs. They also considered homes that were less expensive which would have made the purchase more affordable.

See READY, Page B12

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES

LAND •••OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30•••

GWIN RD, Montclair. 4+3. NEW LISTING. 1st open. Award- \$925,000

design. Pano vws!! Pool. Hot tub. Pacific Union, Patricia Scott 339-6460

CONTRA COSTA RD, Upper Rockridge. Spacious 4bd/2+ba w/ \$785,000

State of art kitchen. More! Prudential CA, Demetris Wilson 834-2010 2-5

ACACIA AVE, Claremont Pines. 4yr custom w/French Influence. \$749,000

all living w/style & elegance. GRUBB Co, Mavis Delacrot 339-0400

NORFOLK RD, New 4+3.5. 1st open! Lg formal LR, DR, family \$665,000

wst w/jacuzzi. Lg deck. Wells & Bennett, Mary Neuberger 530-4148

ZINN DR, 5bd/3ba. Family rm adj to kitchen. French drs to rear \$659,000

Huge DR. Bay view. The GRUBB Company, Debra Dryden 339-0400

HERIDIAN, New construction in upper Rockridge. Detail! 4bdrms \$629,000

4m suites. Must see at this price. Wells & Bennett, Rose Bero 819-6110

CASTLE DRIVE, Rare Art Deco! 3 bdrrms/2+baths. \$589,000

1st open! LaSalle Properties, Kate Castle 339-8900

EDWARD HILL, Hiller Highlands. 3+bd/2 1/2 ba. Stunning \$540,000

vws! LaSalle Properties, Mary Hanna 339-8900

HARVARD RD, Upper Lakeshore. Piedmont Border. 3 bdrrms, \$499,000

Wth. Prairie Style. LaSalle Properties, Lois C. Johnson 339-8900

CHELTON DR, Piedmont Pines. 4bd/3ba custom contemporary. \$495,000

Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Gene Boomer 869-4202

TARVIEW DR, Hiller. Smashing contemporary 3bd/2+ba twrns. \$495,000

bay vw. Lovely garden. Pacific Union, Bonnie Hirsch 339-6460

WOODROW RD, Montclair gem. 3bd/2+ba rustic contemporary. \$489,000

12,147 sq ft lot. Just listed. Montclair Better Homes, Nahla Nassif 531-1670

AMY DR, Upper Rockridge Trad! 2 complete kitchens. Lovely \$479,000

Fruit trees. 3.5. Hdws. Fam rm w/ffpl. GRUBB, Susanne Paul 339-0400

MOORE DR, Montclair. 3+bd/3+ba. Little Red Riding Hood lived \$475,000

her she married Prince Charming. Prudential CA, Andrew Sussman 287-5857

BAITKEN DR, Montclair. 5bd/3ba. 1st open! Hdwd floors, dining \$469,000

family rm, 90's kitchen. LaSalle Properties, Hal Castle 339-8900

WILD CURRANT WAY, Montclair. Everything you want! Every \$465,000

you need! 3+bd/2.5ba. Come see me. Montclair Better Homes 339-4000

SKYLINE BLVD, Montclair. Spacious 3+bd/2+ba contemp w/ \$439,000

mstr suite, SF vw. deck. Pacific Union, Chuck Corwin 339-6460

BARBORD CT, Upper Rockridge. **First Open!** 3bd/2ba traditional. \$419,000

Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Gene Boomer 869-4202

ALAMO ST, Great neighborhood. LR w/beam ceiling. Hdwd floors, \$410,000

ing. 3/2 + rmpus. Some bay vw. GRUBB Co, Helen Buty 339-0400

WOODROW, Montclair. Level in contemporary. On private lane. \$399,000

5bd. Fdr. Ig family rm. Hot tub. Coldwell Banker, Adriana 339-1174 12-3

SHEPHERD CANYON, Montclair. 4/2 w/stylistics, decks, serene \$389,000

Super clean! Nr hiking trails. Prudential CA, Barbara Reynolds 287-9361

PARKRIDGE DR, Montclair. New listing! Outstanding 3/1 crafts- \$389,000

home office. Gorgeous kitchen. GRUBB Co, Katherine Cooper 339-0400

WIRDEN, Redwood Hts. 4bd/2+ba bay view contemporary. \$379,000

5bd. Cozy family rm w/ffpl. Pacific Union, Kathy Flynn 339-6460

MANILA AVE, Rockridge. **New listing!** Outstanding 3/1 crafts- \$369,000

Wchm! Remod kit. Lg atr & bsmnt. Pacific Union, Donna DeBardi 339-6460

MERRIEWOOD DR, Montclair. **New listing!** 4+bd/3ba w/den \$369,000

5bd. Updt. LaSalle Properties, Helen Nicholas 339-8900

RENO CIRCLE, Oakland Hills. 3+bd/2ba. Fab Shingle \$365,000

house. 2300 sf. Move in! Montclair Better Homes, Mary Jane 339-8400

BURDECK DR, Montclair Schools. Bright roomy 4/3 w/FDR, FR. \$359,000

workshop, decks & patio. Coldwell Banker, Suzanne Yamamoto 339-1174

CHELSEA, Montclair. **New listing!** Immaculate 4/2.5 on prv \$359,000

5bd. Lg rmpus. Sylvan setting. Wells & Bennett, Nol Davis 531-7000 X263

SANTA RAY, Crocker Highlands. **Just listed!** 4/1.5 w/remod kit. \$348,000

decky! Decks. Many upgrades. Prudential CA, Dolores Thom 834-2010

REDWOOD RD, Leona Park Villas. 3bd/2.5b Spanish Med town- \$345,000

Flagstone patio. Mstr w/jacuzzi. GRUBB Co, Angela Grubb 339-0400

CRANE WAY, Joaquin Miller. **New listing!** 2+2. Enjoy views & \$339,000

the. Kit/family rm combo. Lvl yd. Pacific Union, Dick Cohen 339-6460

ALMA PL, Crocker Area. Nice 2+bd on cul-de-sac. 1+baths. Family \$339,000

Hdwd floors. Coldwell Banker, Nader Davari 339-1174

WATERHOUSE, Oakmore. **Just listed!** 2bd/1ba w/style. Light \$339,000

5bd. Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett 482-9000

CARLTON, Rockridge! Sunfilled garden home in prime location! \$329,000

5bd. Front garden. A Dream! Coldwell Banker, Adrienne Broche 339-1174

STACY, Grass Valley district. **New on Market!** 4bd/2+ba \$310,000

on corner lot. Montclair Better Homes, Maria Sinclair 287-9596

LLWOOD AVE, Charming 3bd/2ba Craftsman bungalow. Detail! \$310,000

level yd. Close to transp & shops. GRUBB Co, Judy Cain 339-0400

PELHAM PL, Montclair. 2bd/1b. **New listing!** Dramatic contemp \$299,000

5bd. Hdwd floors, blt-in hutch. Prudential CA 834-2010, Darni Tinsley 287-5837

TOW, Lake Merritt. Great home w/rental unit. Family rm. Nice \$289,500

5bd. 2-car garage. Prudential CA 834-2010, Lisa Young 869-5801

5436 BROADWAY, Rockridge. Delightful Bungalow w/nice yd, bsmnt, \$289,000 garage. 2bd + den, FDR. Hurry! Coldwell Banker, Don Coelho 339-1174

434 44TH ST, Temescal. Classic Craftsman. 2bd plus office. Oak firs. \$279,000

Stone frpl. Yd w/deck. Refreshed! Prudential CA, Lisa Friedman 835-6109 2-5

7110 HOMEWOOD DR, Montclair Hills Retreat. 2bd/1ba. Light & bright! \$279,000

Hdwd floors. Enclosed decks. Brick patio. Coldwell Banker, Ellen 339-1174 2-5

4206 DUNSMURIA AVE, Redwood Hts. Charming 3/1 brdf/1 w/FDR, hdwd \$274,500

floors. Great street. Pacific Union, Diane Earl McCann 339-6460

191 40TH ST WAY, NW listing. Piedmont Ave area. 1916 Craftsman w/ \$273,000

ez to care patio. 1.5 blks to parks/coffee/bank. 3/2. Coldwell Banker 339-1174 1-2

465 42ND ST, Temescal. Darling 2/1 bungalow. Just painted. Oak firs. \$269,500

Many blt-ins. Stone frpl. Prudential CA, Lisa Friedman 835-6109 2-5

7515 STERLING DR, Millmont. 3/1.5ba beautiful & stately. Quality \$269,000

home. Deck, view yd. Must See! Prudential CA Realty 834-2010

3854 RHODA, Laurel. 3bd w/mstr off back. 2 full baths up/1 down. \$249,900

New kitchen/palmt/craft. Prudential CA, Walter Edmondson 869-5843

5340 BROADWAY TER #403, Rockridge. 2bd/1ba. Sweeping \$245,000

GG vw. Most desirable bldg. NEW LISTING! Pacific Union, Robyn Mohr 339-6460

260 CALDECOTT #114, Parkwoods Condo. 2bd/1ba. \$230,000

Prudential CA Realty, Carol Heath-Kim 527-9800 2-4

3724 38TH AVE, Laurel district. 3bd/3ba, 7yr old home. 2 more bd \$229,000

downstairs. Parquet floors throughout. Prudential CA, Alex 869-5094

3964 BARNER, Oakland Hills-sunshine & roses. Light/bright/airy. 2bd/1ba. \$219,000

1ba. Refin. Hdwd floors. Updtd kit & bath. Coldwell Banker, Evelyn Walker 339-1174

3562 KEMPTON WAY, Piedmont Ave area. Cute & clean 2bd/1ba. \$199,000

bungalow. Remodeled kitchen & bath. LaSalle Properties, Lynn Murray 339-8900

8227 NEV AVE, Oakland Hills. **New listing!** Charming 2bd, spacious \$179,000

LR w/ffpl, deck, bay vw. Pleasant street. Wells & Bennett, Stan Hammond 839-5846

300 CALDECOTT LN #205, Parkwoods Condos. 1bd/1ba. Much \$173,000

sought-after "Golden Gate" model. LaSalle Properties, Tom Erwin 339-8900 X230

3825 HIGH ST #205, Unique Med style condo. 1bd/1ba w/ffpl. \$169,500

LR & DR.Gated environment. Vws of hills & SF. GRUBB Co, Angela Grubb 339-0400

3317 39TH AVE, 3bd/1ba light & airy bungalow. Move in condition! \$160,000

Lg yd. Garage w/interior access. Prudential CA, Nancy Tausig 845-0211

3825 HIGH ST #204, Unique Med style condo. 1bd/1ba w/ffpl. \$89,000

LR & DR.Gated environment. Vws of hills & SF. GRUBB Co, Angela Grubb 339-0400

ALAMEDA •••OPEN SUNDAY•••

1315 BAY ST, 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. \$635,000

Prudential CA Realty, John Cashman 845-0200 2-4

1224 HIGH ST, East End. 2bd/1ba. Corner of High & Madison. Formal \$275,000

dining room. Basement. Homes-Link, Millie 748-5300 2-4:30

ALBANY •••OPEN SUNDAY 2-4•••

1000 VENTURA AVE, 2+bd/1ba. **New listing!** Sunny split-level w/ \$299,000

Ig EIK. Sunrm w/Mt Tam & bay vws. Office. Backyd. Garage. Bsmnt. Storage. More! Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X109 2-4:30

BERKELEY •••OPEN SUNDAY•••

226 HILLCREST, Great location. Claremont. 4bd/3.5ba w/family rm, \$850,000

luxurious mstr suite, Ig yd. Tilden Co, Bebe McKee 652-2133 X145 2-4

2823 BENVENUE AVE, Elmwood. 7bd/3ba includes 2bd income pent. \$825,000

Beautiful. original detail. Prudential CA Realty, Warwick May 845-0200 2-4

758 SPRUCE, 4 bedrooms. 3½ baths. \$625,000

Coldwell Banker, Jerry Hatch 486-1495 2-4

47 POPLAR, Berk.Hill. Gracious 3+3.5 Tudor. Bay Views. Sun-filled \$575,000

kit. Brkfst nk. Office. Gdn patio. Prudential CA, Colette Ford 848-1093 1-5

310 THE SPIRAL, Just listed! Drama & seclusion overlooking Tilden \$545,000

Pk. 4bd contemp. Garden. Berkeley Hills RE, Barbara Coleman 524-9888 X28 1-4

3021 CLAREMONT AVE, Charm, value, & location! 2/2 w/cook's kt, \$475,000

study, level garden. Templeton Co, Anne Van Dyke 652-2133 X137 2-4:30

1381 ROSE, Gorgeous Victorian in garden setting. 2bd/1ba. \$420,000

Coldwell Banker, Chris Cohn 486-1495 2-4

65 QUAZ AVE, Light airy 3/2 contemp. **New listing!** Gracious open \$379,000

floorplan. Styling kit. Remod. French drs to spacious deck. Fenced yd w/patio. Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X109 2-4:30

1515 NORTH ST, Handsome 3bd/2ba Brown Shingle. Cul-de-sac. \$365,000

Rear garden. Nonconforming cottage tool! GRUBB Co, Karen Starr 339-0400 2-4:30

734 KEELER, GG & BAY VIEWS. **New Price!** LR w/cathedral ceiling. \$349,000

Frpl, FDR, oak firs. Landscaped. Marvin Gardens, Merrilyn Rhodes 559-2928 2-4

60 BONNIE LN, B.Hills 3bd/1.5b mini Tudor w/grt potential!. Nds TLC. \$339,000

SF & GG vws. **New listing!** AS IS! Berkeley Hills, Gay Austin 524-9888 X20

Pricing

FROM PAGE B1

ditionally the best selling season of the year and the inclement weather does not keep today's buyers away.

As time went on, the house received fewer and fewer showings by agents and their buyers. At the Sunday open houses buyers would ask, "How long has it been on the market?" Even after it was on the market for only a couple of weeks, the buyers would say, "What's wrong with it?"

The problem, of course, was that it was overpriced. When buyers see that a house is overpriced they usually will

not want to make an offer. They don't want to waste their time with an unrealistic and unreasonable seller.

By the time we reached the fourth price reduction, the house had clearly become stale on the market. It had been on the market about six weeks and in this fast seller's market, six weeks is considered a long time. As this last price reduction was substantial, it generated new buyer interest.

The house then received an offer. The seller accepted it after a couple of counter offers. The selling price was satisfactory, but I believe the seller could have done a little better if the house had been priced correctly in the first place. The seller learned a very difficult lesson and I guess some people have to learn the hard way.

Additionally, overpricing the

house caused the seller a great deal of needless stress. Certainly quality of life needs to be considered.

Obviously, the moral of the story is to be realistic and reasonable. Sellers should think about the words, "fair market value." If the asking price is fair, chances are the seller will be successful. Even if the asking price is on the low side, the seller is likely to receive multiple offers that will boost the price.

Gayle Tantau is a top producing Realtor and Marketing Specialist with Prudential California Realty in the Claremont/Piedmont office. Call her at 510-845-6021 or you can e-mail gayletantau@msn.com.

Gifts

FROM PAGE B2

plotted for days about what to take with her, traveling by train. She shopped until she found the ideal, lockable containers, confirmed that the train would accept them and stored them for her during a weekend stopover, then filled the lockers with clothes, a few photographs and a few favorite books.

And so she is off, this gracious, life-smart lady, to different (and, we hope, ever better) things. The buyer is delighted to be taking over the house, he knew what it was about and wanted to live there the minute he walked in for the first time.

Houses, we are sure, soak up the energy of those who live there. This walls of this house had absorbed much happiness.

"Our client was a dream! She knew where she was going and why; she was focused and efficient in getting there. Plus — icing on the cake — she appreciated us. With clients like this, no wonder we love our work."

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at (510) 653-2050.

Authentic

FROM PAGE B7

Within the last generation, planners and developers have carried out some construction schemes that have hurt historic neighborhoods in Bay Area communities.

The good news is that these kinds of wanton demolition and replacement projects are largely a thing of the past in most Bay Area communities, one exception being Palo Alto

and its adjacent areas.

Next week, we'll explore the reasons why preserving the authentic pieces of history is important. We'll also look at recent success stories in the Bay Area preservation movement.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at (510) 273-9383. Visit him at top-broker.com/wilson.

Ready

FROM PAGE B11

After reviewing the available inventory, they decided that they would be willing to pay more for location.

Unfortunately, there weren't many comparable sales in the neighborhood of homes exactly like the one they were considering buying. So, for extra protection, they included a provision in the purchase agreement that required the home to appraise for the purchase price.

The home did appraise, but if it hadn't, Joe and Chris could have pulled out of the deal probably with-

out losing their deposit money.

To add to their comfort level, Joe and Chris used due diligence in selecting inspectors to examine the house for them to make sure that they were aware of the property condition. As tenants, they did have the benefit of living in the home for a time so they were aware of some problems that needed correcting.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Buying and Selling a Home in California," and "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," both from Chronicle Books.

WELLS BENNETT REALTORS
531-7000

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.



6905 NORFOLK ROAD.....\$665,000
1ST OPEN! New Construction! South bay views, 4+BD/3.5BA. Large formal living, dining room, kitchen includes granite, stainless appliances, huge family room master suite with Jacuzzi tub, walk in closet. Large deck leads to yard.
Mary Neuberger 530-4148

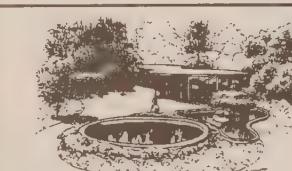


2755 CHELSEA.....\$359,000
NEW LISTING! Immaculate 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac. Large rumpus, sylvan setting.
Noll Davis ext. 263

8227 NEY AVENUE.....\$179,000
NEW LISTING! Charming two bedroom home, features a spacious living room with fireplace and sliding doors to deck with lovely bay view. Updated kitchen with tile counters. Garage and roomy back yard. Pleasant street. Stan Hammond 839-5846

238 SHERIDAN.....\$629,000
New Construction in upper Rockridge, beautiful detail throughout, marble granite. Four bedrooms with two masters! Must see at this price!
Rose Marie Bero 819-6110

BY APPOINTMENT



RARE ORINDA PROPERTY.....\$700,000
4.3 ACRES, two separate parcels, unique glass house plus two guest houses on developed lot. Extremely private setting. Noll Davis ext. 263

GLENVIEW VIEW HOME.....\$329,995
Three bedrooms, one bath close to shopping area, large rooms, 1-car attached garage, level back yard, hardwood floors. Chris Christensen ext. 242

MODERN 1979 HOME.....\$317,000
Located near the Oakland hills, 2200+sq. ft., 3+BD/3BA with family room, fireplace, great rear yard, and 2-car garage. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

LAND
VIEWS.....\$449,000
SF Bay and Contra Costa views. Nearly 1 acre, level lot, utilities present. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

DOWNSLOPE.....\$107,000
Bay view, building plans included. Near Oakland golf course. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

REDUCED 10%.....\$85,000
Gentle down slope lot along Skyline Blvd. at Broadway Terrace. No bay view, but tranquil locale. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND

• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Vacation Rentals/Sales
• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484
<http://www.wellsandbennett.com>

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Built in 1912 for a sea captain in the image of the longboats he had sailed around the world, this grand old Elmwood shingle has been the residence of a world-renowned inventor and philosopher and a center for students of consciousness and cosmology since 1973. An exciting combination of architectural beauty and enormous potential, it awaits restoration to its former glory.

Behind the gracious, vine-covered veranda, the wide central corridor provides an astonishing 80-foot visual sweep from the ballroom-like front living room to the exquisitely detailed dining room and lush rear garden.

Three main floor bedrooms flank the central hallway; four large attic rooms and a huge, semifinished walk-out basement complete the ship-like floor plan.

Modified and adapted for many uses over many years, this home suffers from some deferred maintenance. But its fine bones, refined details, enormous rooms and extraordinary scale present a rare opportunity for the next visionary to make its history his or her own.

To view it, call listing agent Gini Erck at Templeton Company, 510-652-2133 ext. 133.



THIS ELMWOOD SHINGLE awaits restoration to its former glory

Prudential California Real

Prudential

Real Estate



* Indicates Homes Being Held Open Sunday

OAKLAND / PIEDMONT

UPPER ROCKRIDGE HOME.....\$785,000

4BR, 2+BA, fam rm, dining rm, state of the arts kitchen, view of SF, great for entertaining!

Demetrius Wilson (510) 834-2010

THE OUTSIDE IN HOUSE.....\$389,000

Skilights and decks bring everything good about the outside - sun, nature, sky - inside. 4BD, 2BA, serene setting and 5 minutes to a million trails.

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BERKELEY SOUTH (510) 845-0211

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SPORTS

VJ

April 22, 1999

Section C

Softball Albany - Berkeley Youth Softball returns with a bang [C2]

Classifieds Spring time is a great time to check out garage sales! [C11]

Albany High is back on track

After nearly a decade the school brings back its track and field program

By Scott Strain

PIEDMONT — Albany track is back. Beset by declining student interest and deteriorating facilities, the administration at Albany High School disbanded the track and field program nine years ago.

Now, in 1999 the school is fielding a nascent team that is comprised mainly of junior varsity runners and field event participants, although there are a smattering of varsity performers.

"Ever since I became athletic director, I've wanted to reintroduce a track program at Albany," said Albany athletic director Debbie Wanlin, who watched her team perform at a meet at Piedmont last Thursday. "We've had some tradition of success at Albany in this sport."

Indeed the Cougars have. Mike Shavers, who ran a 9.5 in the 100-yard dash in 1971 and 1972, is still listed among the top performers in the North Coast Section all-time list.

So is Ralph Fruguglietti, who threw the discus 164 feet, 5 1/4 inches and went 59-3 1/4 in the shot in 1964. Fruguglietti was a member of the Italian Olympic team in 1968, according to long-time followers of the Albany track scene.

Team meeting

There was a meeting at the school in January and the team officially started practicing on Feb. 8.

There are 15 girls and 20 boys on the teams, which is a goodly number for a first-year program. Most are junior varsity performers and not every event is represented.

"We don't have any hurdlers yet and we don't have the funds for a pole vault," assistant coach Al Baker said. "We don't have any high jumpers yet, either."

The idea is to build a competent junior varsity program this year before dipping into the varsity waters in the future.

"Most of our athletes are on the JV team this year," said Baker. "We're trying to have a strong JV team and try to build them up to varsity next year. We don't have that many varsity runners."

New coach Pope Powell said the Cougars had a good turnout from the start. The team kept more than half of those who came out and most of them are underclassmen, which bodes well for the future.

"We started out with 60 kids inquiring," Powell said, "and now we have a solid base of about 36. Eighteen of them are freshmen and sophomores and we're excited about that because it gives us a good base to start our program."

All-inclusive sport

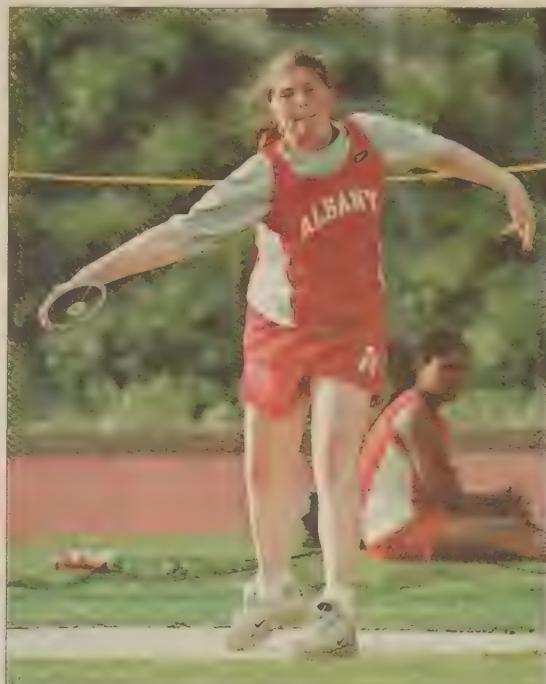
But the main reason for the reintroduction of the sport is the opportunity of participation for a large number of students.

"We only had a couple of spring sports and students have to compete for spots on those teams," Wanlin said, "but in track, no one gets cut. Everybody has a chance to run."

Senior Kimbra Baker is one of those athletes who is competing just for the fun of it.

Baker played basketball for four years for the Cougars and has been accepted to U.C.-Berkeley on an academic scholarship. She plans to major in biochemistry and integrated biology.

"I think it is a good idea because track is a sport that all kids can play," Baker said. "You can come out and get in shape and there is no limit to how many people



ALBANY'S LAURA LARSON winds up to throw the discus. Larson is one of the newest converts to track since the team was revived this season.

can be on the team, so that makes it fun for everyone."

Baker is on the team to stay in shape, participate in a spring sport and to have some fun. "I want to play intramural basketball (at Cal) and I don't want to embarrass myself."

Shot-putter and discus thrower Laura Larson, another senior, decided to go for track because she wasn't going to try out for the spring musical at Albany. Instead, she was going to "fiddle" around with track.

"It was something to do to stay in shape and met new friends," said Larson, who

may go to U.C.-Santa Cruz or U.C.-San Diego and major in marine biology. This is her first time in any sport in high school and she did it just so she could participate. "I'm definitely doing this for fun," she said.

Coach Powell said his goal is that "within the next two or three years, we want to establish a really strong program." Wanlin sees that and more for the Albany student population through the experience of track and field.

"There is a place for everybody," Wanlin said about the Albany track program, and that's the best reason of all.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

St. Mary's in 3-way tie for league lead

Albany, El Cerrito win, Berkeley falls

Staff report

Mike Holmes scattered four hits and Jeremiah Felder scored two runs to lead St. Mary's High School to a 4-0 win over Encinal in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League baseball last Friday.

St. Mary's (7-7 overall, 3-0 ACCAL) ended the week in a three-way tie for the league lead with De Anza and Piedmont.

De Anza visited Piedmont on Wednesday, while the Panthers were at Alameda High.

St. Mary's took a 1-0 lead against Encinal with a run in the second inning.

The Panthers then put away the visiting Jets with three more in the bottom of the fourth. Chris Alfert led that barrage with a two-run home run.

Holmes went the distance for the Panthers to even his record to 2-2. He struck out five Jets batters while walking only one.

St. Mary's banged out six hits. Felder went 2-for-3. Brie Anderson and Craig Nord each had a double.

Albany

In other ACCAL action, Albany trounced Richmond 10-2 and El Cerrito trashed Salesian 9-1.

For Albany, pitcher Ted Smith-Peterson picked up the win to improve his record to 3-2. Matt Gillette came on in relief in the sixth inning. Smith-Peterson and Gillette combined to scatter eight hits.

Offensively, the Cougars banged out

See BASEBALL, Page C2



JOANNA JHANDA

ST. MARY'S shows how dominant it is in the league by racing against itself in the 400 meters at Piedmont last Friday.

Panthers rule the track

Small school consistently fields powerhouse teams

By Mike McGreehan

Despite its relatively small enrollment, St. Mary's High School has one of the top track and field programs in California.

Though some from other track and field powerhouses around the state might differ, there's no doubt that the Panthers surely have the best in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

St. Mary's more than drove that point home in a six-team meet at Piedmont High last Thursday.

St. Mary's was the easy winner in both team competitions. The Panthers captured the girls meet with 116 1/2 points, well ahead of second-place Piedmont's 60 1/2.

The Panthers boys won with 136 points, double the score of second-place Piedmont's 68.

Sometimes, the biggest compliments come from opponents.

"They're a loaded team," Piedmont coach Doyle O'Regan said after the meet. "For such a small school, you're looking at one of the top five — if not higher — track programs in the state."

St. Mary's went to the Woody Wilson Relays over the weekend and picked up

six first-place finishes while setting three meet records.

Girls events

Freshman Kamaiya Warren has performed superbly in both the discus and shot put. Such was the case in Piedmont, where she recorded winning marks in both.

Warren went 39 feet, two inches in the shot put. She tossed the discus 112-4.

In other girls field events, Spring Harris won the high jump for the Lady Panthers at 5-2. Harris went on to win the high jump at the Woody Wilson meet, going an inch higher at 5-3.

Also at Piedmont Teammates Riana Shaw and Tiffany Johnson won triple jump and long jump, respectively, with marks of 33-2 and 16-1 1/2.

On the track, freshman Danielle Stokes took the 300-meter low hurdles (47.1) and the 100 intermediate hurdles (15.3). Stokes won the 100 hurdles at Woody Wilson in 15.47, then placed third in the 300 hurdles at 47.89.

Back at the Piedmont meet, freshman Bridget Duffy captured the 800 (2:31.8). The St. Mary's girls also won the 400 relay (50.9).

St. Mary's had no entries in both the boys and girls 1,600 relay, the day's final event. By that time, though, the Panthers already had the meet won.

Boys results

In boys competition, Quaintis Cann won the 300 intermediate hurdles (40.7).

See PANTHERS, Page XC2

SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Mayers lifts Cougars to win over Gauchos

St. Mary's, Berkeley High both lose

Staff report

Leifa Mayers scored three runs and drove in three more to lead Albany High School to a 9-7 win over traditional rival El Cerrito in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League softball last Friday.

Mayers spurred the Cougars' 15-hit attack with a double and two singles in four at-bats.

Pitchers Kyle Kemp and Abby McCullough combined for the win as the Cougars improved to 3-2 in the ACCAL and 3-5 overall. El Cerrito, which had six hits, fell to 1-2 in the ACCAL.

Kemp also contributed at the plate by going 1-for-2 and scoring a run. Jenna Narula went 2-for-2 for Albany.

The Cougars traveled to Kennedy on Wednesday while El Cerrito hosted Encinal.

St. Mary's

Elsewhere in the ACCAL last Friday, St. Mary's High got pounded 11-0 by top-ranked Salesian High in a game that lasted five innings because of the 10-run slaughter rule.

The Panthers (5-3 overall, 2-2 ACCAL) were simply no match for Salesian pitcher Vanessa Martinez, who struck out eight and issued no walks in five innings.

See SOFTBALL, Page C2

ALBANY - BERKELEY YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

By Michael Blake

The girls of the ABGSL roared back from their spring break with their brand of stellar softball last weekend, on fields all over Berkeley and Albany.

Micro Division

Bears vs. Angels

On a perfect Saturday morning of softball in the sun, the Alpha Phi Bears and the Andronico Angels showed continuing progress in their defensive abilities.

Lisa Gilliland of the Angels hit a rocket into right field, forcing coaches and parents crowded around first base to scatter for safety. She also excelled in the field, pursuing and tagging a runner to save a crucial run.

Liz Schneider, after her batting ritual of flapping her arms to pump up power, hit two smashes that almost tore the seams off the ball. She then dazzled the spectators defensively with a smooth assist and a calm putout.

Aine Ritchie-Boland of the Bears hit and scored twice and rifled a throw to home plate, showing both her strength and alertness in the field. Julia Reichenstein made an outstanding outfield catch to bring the ball the second base for an attempted putout.

Kelsey Fredrikson, playing from the pitcher's mound, hustled up a short ball and snapped it to first base for a putout. Fellow Bear Caitlin Taffe, playing first base, swooped a sharp grounder, stepped on the orange plastic base for the out and the coolly threw the ball to second for the first double play of the season in Micro.

A proud smile shone from her face when she realized what she had accomplished.

Younger Division

Hawks 22

Smilemakers 15

At high noon under a blazing sun, two offensive powerhouses slugged it out, with the Ask Jeeves for Kids Red Tailed Hawks pulling ahead in the final inning.

The Dr. Brehman's Smilemakers' offense was explosive in the top of the first, with Amaya Fernandez blasting a ball over the right fielder's head for a triple and Sophia Kline smashing a line drive past third for another triple.

The top of the inning ended with sure-handed Hawk Mattison Peters in the pitcher's circle combining with Lucy Archer for a picture-perfect putout at first.

The bottom of the inning featured an all-around offensive effort by the Hawks, featuring hard-hit singles by Silvie Senuake, Angelique Traub and Emily Cooper, and Kianna Ervin's line-drive double to center field, scoring three runners. The Smilemakers' defense was solid, led by infielders Katherine Pierce and Morgan Tidd. The inning ended with the score tied at 7-7.

Smilemaker Lauren Lute blasted a leadoff single to start the second inning. Singles by Natasha Seiberling, Kyla Sims and Anoushka Santa-Coyle followed, and all three scored on Fernandez' second smash hit of the day, a double over the center fielder's head. The bottom of the second inning featured hard-hit singles by Julie Friedman, Marisa Schilling and Fiona Foster, and the inning ended with the Hawks holding a bare 14-13 lead.

The top of the third inning was a defensive coup for the Hawks, with three unassisted putouts, two by Ervin at first and another by Taylor Jacoby at second. In the bottom of the inning, the Hawks peppered the Smilemakers with base hits, and Rachael Masterson's line drive triple over second base led the Hawks to a 22-15 victory.

Middle Division

Generals 27

Falcons 23

The James Engineering Generals exploded offensively and defensively, leading to a close victory over a strong Strategic Economics Falcon team.

In the first inning, Falcon Emily Fong set the pace for the high-scoring game with a leadoff single. Teammate Emily Cote followed with an RBI smash.

Brenna Ritchie-Boland added to the Falcons' offense with aggressive base-running and three runs scored.

Tamara Land-Gilden, pitcher for the Generals in the second, shut down the Falcons' offense by making all three outs.

Kirsti Clark followed in the bottom half of the inning with a run-scoring double for the Generals.

The Falcons showed their own defensive skill when Isa Guardalabene made two sparkling throws to first and Adrian Gebhart rang up two outs in one inning.

The turning point in the game came in the fourth, as the sun heated up and Hayley Beckett's hot bat drove in the winning run, scored with excellent runs.

MAGNIFICAT
VOICES AND INSTRUMENTS
OF THE EARLY BAROQUE

Vesper della Beata Virgine
by Claudio Monteverdi, 1610

Monteverdi's Vespers collection is a musical crossroad combining florid madrigals, Gregorian psalm tones, sparkling instrumental ritornelli, and the new operatic style in a timeless masterpiece.

Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m.

First Congregational Church

Dana & Durant, Berkeley

For information or to order tickets
call (415) 956-4505

ning by Marina Caron.

After the game, Hayley Ashkenas, who got a hit and made a good defensive play for the Generals, said, "I love softball. It's a really fun sport and I like my team."

Litigators 3
All-Stars 1

In this low-scoring, well-played game with relatively few hits, the outcome was uncertain until the last inning, when the Black, Brown & Lainer Litigators strung together five singles, scoring two decisive runs.

In the first inning, the All-Stars had the bases loaded on hits by Aurelia Cheng, Casey Osborn, and Briana Waga but failed to score.

Meanwhile, Lauren Martinez, pitching for the Autumn Press All-Stars, kept the Litigators hitless for the first two innings.

The Litigators took a 1-0 lead in the third when Emma Riley, Alyse Muller, and Kyla Collins put together successive singles.

In the fifth, Mary Pinto and Olivia Kraken led off with singles. Then with two outs, three successive hits scored the Litigators' remaining two runs.

The All-Stars avoided a shutout in their final at-bats when Sidney Overway's single drove home their only run.

Outstanding pitching performances were turned in by Lisa Richardson and Olivia Beckley of the Litigators.

On defense, both teams were excellent with clean fielding and few errors.

Zippers 6
Sparkles 5

An especially hot day didn't prevent two closely matched teams from showing off their strong fielding, hitting, and pitching.

The Jeff Cohen Electric Sparkles took a 2-0 lead right away with a home run by Rivka Cohen scoring Joanna Jungerman. Christine Skonberg of the Zippers scored the first of her two runs of the game, but Cohen's five strikeouts in two innings helped prevent the Xinet Zippers from scoring any other runs.

By the end of the second inning, the score had widened to 3-1, with Elena Thurman of the Sparkles scoring the first of her two runs off a single by Leah Fischer, and Hannah Badal of the Sparkles making the first of two superb plays in the field.

The Sparkles continued to play hard in the third inning, with good fielding by Chinda Stance and Ruby Shapiro, but it wasn't enough to stop the Zippers. Lexie Cousins hit a double, allowing Julia Kessler and Skonberg to score and tying the game 3-3. Skonberg also made a great play in the field, with a powerful throw from third to shortstop to third base.

This didn't faze the Zippers as they took to the plate, and Zoe Thiele-Seidenberg, with a powerful triple, drove home Anya Gaetach and Becca Nash-Timpkin to tie the game once again.

Finally, Thiele-Seidenberg was able to score the winning run off a single by Kessler for a Zipper victory.

Basebones 6
Angels 2

The Jesse Young Angels jumped on the board in their first at-bat when Elena Saxon hit a solid RBI single.

At the mound, Margo Winton timed a fly ball perfectly for a putout.

Lily Stern walloped a long double into center in the fourth and charged home later to score a run.

Pitcher Jenna Starkey overpowered the batters and struck out the side in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Prins Chiropractic Base Bone rookies demonstrated coordinated and tight defense.

Sarah Leah Shor struck out the first two batters of the game, caught a high fly on one knee in the outfield, and scooped two grounders for outs, including a hot one at first that ricocheted hard off her chin.

Lauren Halperin contributed three infield putouts and sacked a single for her team's third run, ensuring their victory.

Alice Reichman singled in a run and alertly fielded a grounder at second base to throw out a speedy runner in a close call.

In the last defensive play of the game, rookie right fielder Zoe Siegel played a grounder perfectly and relayed the ball in to prevent an extra base hit.

Royals 6
Mighty Molars 4

The Davitt Felder Stamps Royals defeated the Vivian Lopez Mighty Molars 6-4 with timely hitting and excellent defense from both teams. The Mighty Molars were led by Madeleine Lettieri with two RBI, and Cory Burgamy had two defensive gems throwing out the runners at second base.

The turning point in the game came in the fourth, as the sun heated up and Hayley Beckett's hot bat drove in the winning run, scored with excellent runs.

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS • THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1999

FROM PAGE C1

12 hits. Chris Weadley went 3-for-4 with three RBI. He also scored a run.

Catcher Todd Eagle had a single and double in four at-bats. He scored two runs and drove in one. David Collister also went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Smith-Peterson helped his own cause with a triple. Tim Omweller also hit a three-bag-ger. Albany (7-7, 2-1 after this game) hosted St. Elizabeth on Wednesday afternoon.

El Cerrito

El Cerrito had little trouble with Salesian as pitcher Edwin Reyes scattered eight hits in a complete-game effort. Reyes improved to 3-3. The Gauchos (6-9-1, 1-2 after this game) traveled to College of Alameda on Wednesday to face St. Joseph.

Berkeley

In East Bay Athletic League action last Friday, Berkeley dropped to 2-2 in the league after getting crushed by previously-winless Foothill 16-6. Berkeley (11-3 overall) got off to a quick start by scoring five runs in the top of the first inning. But the Yellowjackets' fortunes soon changed. Foothill got one back in the bottom of the second, then exploded for six more in the third. Berkeley gave up a three-run home run to Matt Andrade and a two-on dinger to Robert Knox in the latter inning. Foothill continued its assault with six more runs in the fourth, putting the game well out of reach.

Andrade, who finished two runs and six RBI, also burned the Yellowjackets with a triple. Knox added a single and double to finish 3-for-4 with four RBI and a pair of runs. Berkeley looked to get back on the winning track Wednesday afternoon at Amador Valley.

Impressive win

One of the team's more impressive performances came in a 5-3 win over Southern Marin.

Dan Vilar led Berkeley's attack with two goals. Sam Geller, Jack Roach and Monty Carlson added one goal apiece.

At the opposite end of the field, goalie Wes Mestrov made four spectacular saves to deny the talented Southern Marin team. Adam Turak and David Coy provided outstanding defensive work.

Defense, in fact, has been key to Berkeley's success this season. Slowik praises his defenders not only for their efforts in one-on-one coverage, but also for their efforts in those situations when a penalty puts Berkeley in a man down.

Softball

FROM PAGE C1

St. Mary's did manage three hits off Marquette, including a double by Mikka Vrakovich. Alex Hammond also went 1-for-2 for the Panthers. St. Mary's looked to shake off the loss when it hosted St. Elizabeth on Wednesday.

Berkeley

In East Bay Athletic League action last Thursday, Berkeley's Liby Bermeo pitched well enough to win on most days. But for Berkeley, this wasn't an ordinary day. The Yellowjackets (5-6, 1-3) committed six errors to help Foothill gain a 9-0 win. Besides its shaky defense, Berkeley also struggled at the plate. The Yellowjackets managed only one hit against Foothill pitcher Tiffany Goodman, whose team stayed undefeated in league play. The Falcons are 4-0 in the EBL and 11-1 overall. Berkeley looked to get back on the winning track Tuesday afternoon when it hosted Amador Valley.

Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

110 high hurdles (14.9) and the 100 (11.1).

Cain did quite well at Woody Wilson, setting the meet record in the 110 hurdles at 14.71. Cain was also third in the 300 hurdles in 39.72.

Chris Dunbar and Jamaal Brown each won their heats in the 200 at Piedmont to finish with an overall tie for first place (22.7).

Kimani Lovan captured the 800 (2:00.5) at Piedmont.

He went on to win the 400 race at Woody Wilson in 48.49.

James Ross took the 1,600 (4:42.0) and St. Mary's also won the

400 relay.

In field events, Asotah mad placed first in both the jump (20-3) and triple (41-1/2). Muhammad (20-3) and St. Mary's (11.1) at Woody Wilson, going 48.49.

Ebon Glenn won both the 100 and 200 with an effort of 6-2.

James Powell won both the 100 and 200 with an effort of 6-2.

The Panther foursome record 3:22.05 at Woody Wilson.

The girls' mile relay placed second in the 400 relay.

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Arts

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Johnny Otis Show

Berkeley High School's Benefit Concert "Showcasing the Best of Berkeley... Keeping the Tradition Alive!" is April 24 at 8 p.m. and features The Johnny Otis Show, Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble, Berkeley High School African Dancers and Drummers and Belva Davis. Dinner, April 24, 5:45 p.m. at the Shattuck Hotel, Shattuck Avenue and Alston Way, is \$20 to \$100. Berkeley Community Theater, Alston Way and Milvia Street, Berkeley. Details: 649-1544.

Caribbean Capers and Ballroom Etudes

San Francisco Ballroom Dance Theatre presents repertory works in Berkeley at the Julia Morgan Theater, with performances Thursday through Saturday, May 6-8 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, May 9 at 3 p.m.

Artistic Director Roberta Meyer and her company of seven professional performers, including special guest artist Pampa Cortes, will present nine works, including last year's successful premieres of "Caribbean Capers and Ballroom Etudes." Also participating in this year's Spring Season

Schoen's original songs.

General seating for "A Cabaret Evening" is \$17 adults, \$8 children (12 and under). Send checks (made out to Westwind) to: PO Box 13046, Berkeley, CA 94712-4046.

Barbara Catherine Ward exhibit

Barbara Catherine Ward's "A Contemporary Expression of Fine Art Tradition" will be featured at Voulez Vous French Bistro, 2930 College Ave. in Berkeley. Opening reception is Monday, April 26, 5-9 p.m.

Plaint-air landscapes of local scenes such as Inspiration Point, a view from Mt. Tamalpais and Nicasio are lushly painted in oils on linen in a style reminiscent of early California painters. Still-life works range from large florals to smaller intimate scenes. Her classical style portrait drawings are executed in red pencil on rice paper with silk mats and gold frames. The collection exudes warmth and a unique romantic vision.

All will be on display in Berkeley's newest French Bistro, Voulez Vous. Nightly live music completes the experience of dining, music and art.

Spike & Mike return with fun for whole family

By Chris Treadway

Animation has made a comeback in a big way, with entries on the TV airwaves for young and old proliferating like never before. But the commercial arena is hardly all there is to the current world of animation (the dignified term for cartoons).

There is a world of animation out there — in style, concept, place of origin — that the mainstream never sees, but that you can have the chance to catch at Berkeley's UC Theatre during the coming week.

Spike & Mike, whose animation festivals have been making the rounds for 22 years, bring their show back to town tomorrow for a week's stay. But unlike their popular "Sick" and "Twisted" animation collections, this is one that promoters correctly peg as an "ideal family outing."

Spike & Mike's Classic Festival of Animation brings 17 animated shorts, the longest is just over 7-1/2

ANIMATION FESTIVAL

Spike & Mike's Classic Festival of Animation screens at the UC Theatre, 2036 University Ave., tomorrow through next Saturday. Showings are at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$7. Details: 843-FILM.

minutes, to the UC screen starting tomorrow and staying through May 1 for four showings a day.

All but one (and the one is a 30-year-old classic answered by a modern-day follow-up) is making its U.S. premiere and many have won awards.

This assemblage is a much a celebration of the many styles of animation as anything else and a perfect chance to compare them.

Computer animation, needless to

See ANIMATION, Page C4



"BUNNY" is an Academy Award-winning computer animation short by Chris Wedge.

At nearly 40, 'Gypsy' is still an eye-opener

By Jack Tucker

The musical, "Gypsy," opening Friday at Contra Costa Civic Theatre, has a 40th birthday coming up next month. The 1959 Broadway season's best musical made her I think that's the proper pronoun in this case debut May 21 of that year. And true to the nomadic stereotype of her namesake, "Gypsy" has wandered the world ever since, probably playing every week.

Todd Ewing is returning to the Civic Theatre to direct this durable and still wrinkle-free musical memoir of Gypsy Rose Lee. You may remember Ewing's touch as the director of "Crazy for You" and "The Music Man," both of which set house attendance records.

In "Gypsy," he will be working with a big cast of local talent, drawing on a book and score that still pack a powerful emotional surge after all these years. Arthur Laurents wrote the book based on Lee's memoirs. Stephen Sondheim, who had worked with Laurents on "West Side Story," wrote the lyrics. Jule Styne composed the music.

It's hard to imagine a more zestful trio to pull off a show about business. "Gypsy" also comes with a historical patina that may increase your enjoyment of the return of this classic to an East Bay stage.

Styne's score was the last important traditional musical comedy as opposed to musical play score to be heard on Broadway. So there will be a bit of musical nostalgia in the air Friday night and weekends thereafter through May 29.

The show's brilliantly colloquial lyrics established Sondheim, along with Alan Jay Lerner, as heir to the earlier masters in the field of crafting

words to propel a musical. And "Gypsy" needs a master's touch in the telling, otherwise it could fallow in triteness. This is the too-often-told story of a quintessential pushy, fame-hungry stage mother and the reluctant offspring she hopes to lift to stardom.

Although the story tells of Lee's start in burlesque, she is not the central figure. That role goes to mother Rose, created by the intimitable Ethel Merman in the original production.

Since the story rambles over a number of years, different actors will slip into the roles to note the passage of time. The cast list includes Margo Winton as Baby Louise, Megan Botts as Baby June, and Cherie Keene and Mantra Plonsey as Rose. As the girls grow up, they will be played by Jacqueline "Jody" Pearce as Louise and Kerry Winger as June.

Pop, who is not amused by Rose's absence from home as she pushes the girls, will be played by Louis Flynn.

Bob Knop will play Herbie (Jack Klugman in the original stage production), the onetime candy peddler in burlesque houses who rises to become the agent for the family act.

Robert Knop Jr., will play Uncle Jocko. Poor guy. To show what a driving force Mama Rose is, she is not above threatening him with rigging his talent contests if Baby June isn't given a satisfactory spot.

"Gypsy" is pure musical comedy, filled with all the old musical comedy tricks the last of a breed except for revivals, or until somebody comes along and re-creates a time and experience now long gone. It's all here in this show: burlesque routines, strip-teases,

See GYPSY, Page C7



JACQUELINE PEARCE is Louise, who becomes the legendary Gypsy Rose Lee.

CATHERINE SCHMITZ

OEBS conductor is honoree at I-House

International House at the University of California at Berkeley will honor Michael Morgan, music director and conductor of the Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra, 1999 International House Alumna of the Year. Edith Simon Coliver and the IBJ Foundation, Inc. of the Industrial Bank of Japan, Ltd., at its 11th annual gala Celebration and Awards Dinner. The festivities will take place Wednesday, May 5 in the Chevron Auditorium at International House in Berkeley. co-chairs for the event are Dennis and Elizabeth Bonny, Vangie and Bill Buell, Richard M. Buxbaum and Kay Harshorn, Ken and Lupita Kashiwahara and Arun and Rummi Sarin.

Michael Morgan will be honored for his commitment to exposing young people of all ethnic backgrounds to many forms of musical expression. His passion for music education drives him to make more than 100 appearances annually in the nation's schools, having performed all over the world. Morgan encourages opportunities for crossing cultures with music and recently led the Oakland Youth Orchestra on a tour of Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico. In recent years, Morgan has conducted the Berlin Radio Orchestra, and the Rotterdam, Los Angeles, and New York Philharmonic Orchestras.

Edith Simon Coliver will receive the 1999 International House Alumna of the Year award in recognition of her

life-long commitment to human rights, after graduating from Cai with a BA in International Relations and Language. Edith went on to a distinguished career including serving as an interpreter and analyst at the Nuremberg Trials and as an executive with The Asia Foundation. At The Asia Foundation, she was the first woman representative assigned to the Philippines and later, Taiwan. Her professional areas of specialization include the democratic process, judicial education and human rights. Coliver is also a founding member of the Women's Interfaith Dialogue on the Middle East. She lived at International House from 1940-43 and currently

See MORGAN, Page C7



CONDUCTOR MICHAEL MORGAN

Swing Dance Night, Dance and Dress Contest at the Julia Morgan

Beginners, experienced, and even the pros will be at the Julia Morgan Theatre Friday, April 23 for dance and dress contests and the very danceable music of the U C Jazz Band.

The audience will enjoy a night of amazing and even participatory entertainment, and be able to dance themselves. Rookies will be on the new dance floor below the stage with teachers, and the experienced and the pros will be up on the stage with the 17-piece band.

Hosts for the evening are Allen and

Meleksah, who come down from Davis many times a week to teach and lead swing dancing at various spots in San Francisco and the East Bay.

Teens and adults alike have been participating in the Friday and Tuesday Night Swing dance lessons at the Julia Morgan. This, a no-alcohol event that is fun for teens as well as college age and young adults. Those older than that, can watch the dances their parents and grandparents danced that

See SWING, Page C4

Live Tibetan music, speakers at "Windhorse" screening

On Saturday, April 24 at 4:15 p.m., prior to the 5:15 p.m. screening of "Windhorse," the Bay Area Friends of Tibet will present live Tibetan music and special guest speakers. Traditional Tibetan food will be offered for sale along with raffle tickets for prizes donated by local Tibetan merchants. Your attendance at this powerful film will help support the Tibetan people's struggle for human rights and the freedom of their homeland.

The Fine Arts Cinema of Berkeley will present "Windhorse" today through Saturday April 24. "Windhorse" is veteran documentarian Paul Wagner's first feature film. It is a cin-

ematic clenched fist protesting the Chinese Communist occupation of Tibet and graphically shows the valiant struggle of the Tibetan people to maintain their cultural and religious heritage. This powerful film stars the renowned Tibetan vocalist Dadon and tells in poignant and skillful way the story of how the daily oppression of her people finally forced her to escape Tibet and seek asylum in the West. A number of scenes in the film were secretly shot in Lhasa on digital video and later transferred to 35mm film.

This April's showing of "Wind-

See SCREENING, Page C4

See EVENTS, Page C7

Jazz fest comes to Fourth Street on May 2

The third annual Jazz On Fourth Street Festival, presented by KPFA 94.1 FM, Fourth Street Merchants and Yoshi's at Jack London Square will be Sunday, May 2 benefiting Berkeley High Performing Arts. This free outdoor festival will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The street and plaza will be filled with plenty of sunshine, music, food, fun and the Fourth Street Merchants with their wares. Plus, there will be free musical performances from Mingus Amungus, the Dave Ellis Quartet, Fito Reinoso and Orquesta Ritmo y Armonia and the award-winning Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble and Combos. There will be plenty of arts and crafts, facepainting and raffle prizes including a weekend at Mt. Shasta, framed Lee Tanner jazz photos, and numerous gift certificates from Fourth Street merchants and Yoshi's.

Having performed at last year's Second Annual Festival and back because of popular demand, Mingus Amungus, led by BHS graduate Miles Perkins, explores the music of legendary bassist Charles Mingus. They revisit Mingus' more challenging and less-heard compositions as well as original works written in the spirit of Mingus. Miles' smooth, groove-oriented style lends itself to a modern interpretation of Mingus' works. The All-Star bands weaves its way through Mingus charts combining hard-hitting be-bop, funk, classical as well as hip-hop jazz. Check out their latest album "Live In Cuba," which is already con-

sidered a classic.

Once a regular on the Bay Area jazz scene, with the original Charlie Hunter Trio and with his own groups, saxophonist and BHS graduate Dave Ellis has recently been on the road celebrating his second Monarch release, "In The Long Run," produced by the legendary Orrin Keepnews. Over the last few years, he has also been touring with Bob Weir's Ratdog and last year as a member of The Other Ones with Bob Weir, Mickey Hart, Phil Lesh and Bruce Hornsby. He remains a most formidable player with a warm distinctive tone that one time Berkeley High bandmate Joshua Redman has described as "one of the most beautiful tenor sounds I have ever heard." He will be joined by Jeff Chimenti on keyboards, Peter Barshay on bass and Deszon Claiborne on drums.

A street festival wouldn't be a street festival without some hot salsa. Fito Reinoso and Orquesta y Armonia have been dubbed "the Bay area's hottest up-and-coming band" by Latin Beat magazine. They have an undeniable Cuban sound that will not doubt make you dance. Led by Fito Reinoso, a genuine Cuban sonero, the group performs original music and more traditional Cuban genres such as son montuno, cha-cha-cha and bolero always with a sound that is 100 percent Cuban! Check out their latest album, "Lo Que Me Gusta Dinero" for some great Cuban dance music.

The Arts Programs of the Berkeley public schools have been recognized

nationwide as a model for instrumental education and have played a central role in building the Bay area's jazz scene. The BHS Jazz Ensemble, once home to Joshua Redman, Benny Green, Peter Apfelbaum, Jessica Jones, Dave Ellis and others, is a breeding ground for some of the best musicians in the country. The First Annual Jazz On Fourth Street helped to raise money for the ensemble to travel to the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands. The Second Annual Jazz On Fourth Street Festival helped raise money for the entire Performing Arts programs. This year, the Third Annual Jazz On Fourth Street Festival will help to raise money for the ensemble to travel to Japan this summer. Karen McKie, parent coordinator for Berkeley High says, "Many people are concerned about the safety and welfare of our young people especially through their perilous ways. Supporting programs like the Berkeley High School Performing Arts and Jazz Ensemble gives the community a chance to join together in support of our talented young people. We can try to be their safety net. Or, we can recognize and encourage our children to use their own talents to help in the weaving of that net. past the 'weaving': the intent of the BH-SJE touring effort is to challenge our young musicians to cast that net wide and to pull in a wealth of positive experience, facility of expression and faith in one's ideas and dreams."

Animation

FROM PAGE C3

say, is well-represented and it is fun to compare not only how different directors employ the digital medium, but also how it stacks up against the other styles seen in the festival lineup.

Americans have been inundated with computer animation and graphics in recent years, but it often seems more bent on technical correctness than on real creativity.

"Tightrope," put out by Digital Domain (which won an Academy Award for its work on "Titanic") and directed by Daniel Robichaud, seems to fall into this category. It obviously took a lot of time to painstakingly put this 5:20-minute piece out, but it lacks the universal appeal of Christa Moesker's Netherlands production "Sientje" (done in a kind of animated comic strip ink sketch) or heart of "The Blue Shoe," a minimalist animation entry by Peter Reynolds of the U.S.'s FableVision Studio.

dios.

But part of the fun of this festival is that you can see these side-by-side and compare for yourself.

There are stop-action (Claymation-type) animation with a message from Germany with "Balance," directed by Christophe and Wolfgang Lauenstein (Academy Award winner for Best Animated Short), kaleidoscopic film images of hands in "Busby," a grabbing tribute to '30s musicals (with sound-track consisting of a Judy Garland rendition of "More"), and fanciful watercolors by director Emma Calder for Pearly Oyster Productions of England.

And not to be missed are the cut-out shadows found in "HumDrum" directed by Peter Peake of England. The avant-garde is represented by the French with "Le Roman de Mon Ame" (The Romance of My Heart, Solweig von Kleist directing) and "L'Homme Aux Bras Ballants" (Man With the Pendulous Arms), directed by Laurent Gorgiard.

Stop-motion animation does well

by Canadian director Luc Otter's "VHX/CarrHot," a Wallace & Gromit-type entry that, like most of the offerings, needs no dialog to communicate.

Lest this be misconstrued as a knock against computer animation, there are entries that go beyond the whiz-bang idea of showing what a computer can do. Witness "The Art of Survival" directed by Cassidy Curtis and created by students at the University of Washington.

Another is "Bingo," a Canadian entry directed by Chris Landreth, and the other is the touching U.S. short "Bunny," directed by Chris Wedge of Blue Sky Studios (with music by Tom Waits).

There is another computer short that deserves mention: "Son of Bambi Meets Godzilla."

In this version by Eric Fernandes Bambi finally gets revenge. The computer-generated piece is well done but can't compare to the original ink drawings by Canada's Marv Newland.



Choreographer Cynthia Pepper, Chaucer & Co. artistic director John Geist, and dancers Melissa Barron, Erin Moriarty and Whitney Lee.

Marin Ballet teams with Chaucer & Co. on "Canterbury Tales"

One of the greatest masterpieces of the English language, Geoffrey Chaucer's famous "Canterbury Tales," is developing into one of the largest and perhaps deepest classical theatrical entertainments to hit the Bay Area.

The magic of an Arabian Nights fable and the charm of Chaucer's rhymed couplets combine to provide a wonderful blend of theatre and dance as Geoffrey Chaucer & Co. and the Marin Ballet present The Squire's and Franklin's Tales for 14 performances only May 6-23 at several venues throughout the Bay Area, including May 9 and 23 at the Hills Lutheran Church in Berkeley.

Continuing Chaucer's exploration in The "Canterbury Tales" of the question, what is the proper relationship between women and men, these tales contain some of his most musical lines, and remind us why Chaucer is regarded as the Father of English Poetry.

Obsession and magic, music and dance blend and soar in The Squire's Tales, a fanciful fable of love, with flying horses and talking birds, in which a tender-hearted princess becomes the

confidante of a lonesome falcon (heartlessly abandoned by her mate) and cautions "Long should be your spoon when supper with the devil."

Then, in The Franklin's Tale, a young man obsessed with another man's wife calls upon dark magic to trick her into a promise that will violate her marriage.

The Franklin weaves this web of love cut by both sides of a two-edged sword.

This new collaboration between Geoffrey Chaucer & Co. and Marin Ballet features an exciting blend of original music created by Marin's award-winning composer and Geoffrey Chaucer & Co. Artistic Director, John Geist.

With dances staged by choreographer/performer Cynthia Pepper, of Marin Ballet, the two companies have created a unique theatrical experience for Bay area audiences.

Performances are scheduled for May 6, 13, and 22 at 8 p.m. at the McAtee Theatre in San Francisco; May 7 at 8 p.m. at The Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa; May 8, 14 and 21 at 8 p.m. at the Shepherd of

the Hills Lutheran Church in Berkeley, May 9 and 23 at 2 and 7 p.m.; May 15 at 8 p.m. at the Marin Civic Showcase Theater in San Rafael; May 16 at 2 and 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek.

Childcare, Chaucer Chat (performance discussions) and Stagecoach Night (free refreshments after the show) are scheduled for the performances.

Single ticket prices are \$17.50 for \$14 senior, and \$10 for full students and educators, and may be purchased at the door the day of the performance.

Advanced ticket sales for Rafael performances can be made by calling (415) 472-3500.

For other performances available through TicketMaster, call 1-800-510-8017.

Tickets will also be available at the TDX booth in San Francisco.

For further information call 1-877-4CHAUCER (1-877-424-2823) or check out their Web site at <http://chaucertheatre.org>.

Screening

FROM PAGE C3

"horse" coincides with the tenth birthday (April 25) of the Panchen Lama, Gedun Choekyi Nyima, who along with

his parents, have not been seen or heard from since being arrested by the Chinese Communist government in 1995. Candlelight vigils will be held around the globe in observation of the world's youngest political prisoner.

Also showing along with "Wind-

horse" is a Russian film entitled "Raspad" ("Collapse"). "Raspad" depicts how the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor changed forever the former Soviet Union. The showing of "Raspad" will be a area premier.

Swing

FROM PAGE C3

have come back again.

The contest is offering prizes in dress for both male and female, and first and second prizes in both swing and Lindy. The audience will vote on the dress. The pros will judge the dancing.

The Julia Morgan is located at 2640 College Ave. in Berkeley with plenty of neighborhood parking. Dance lessons start at 7:30 and the band a bit later. Admission is \$6 student and \$8 regular. Contest entry is \$2 for both dress and dance. Prizes are \$25 for each of the six awards. Winners will also be entitled to a free year of Julia Morgan dancing. Details: 883-7001.

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Wonderful turnout for WonderCon comic book convention

By Corey Lyons

It's difficult to determine what the future holds for the comic book industry, whose pop culture audience is currently being hypothesized by the Internet, DVD and Nintendo.

But if the turnout at WonderCon is any indication, the industry appears to be emerging from its post-'Spawn' funk.

Kept afloat by its ravenous fan base and intriguing diversions for convention drifters, WonderCon continued to impress during its 13th annual comic book held



YOUNG Amber Hall takes a little break to watch cartoons on television during her visit to the WonderCon convention.

April 16-18 at the Oakland Convention Center.

"We don't have the final numbers in yet, but it looks like our biggest year ever," said Joe Field, co-owner of the event, which de-



OAKLAND'S Melvin A. Scott was roaming around the WonderCon convention last weekend dressed as Boba Fett. With headpiece in hand, Scott stopped to talk to friends, Anthony Primas (center) and Elf.

but in 1987.

This year's popularity can be attributed to a varied guest list, Japanese animation, "Star Wars" memorabilia and, well, cleavage. The latter draw was a big hit among comic book junkies.

Busty B-movie starlet Julie Strain posed for photographers and gawkers in a snug-fitting black dress during the show. And model Esther Hwang, whose coquettish image has become an Internet sensation, turned a lot of heads in a snug-fitting blue dress.

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"I just put out what the public wants," said Hwang, who works in the public relations department at City Hall in San Francisco. Hwang spent time signing glossy photos of herself.

For the industry's more business-minded and less distracted followers, the show offered much more.

More than 200 professional comic book artists, writers, editors and publishers attended the show, the largest of its kind in Northern California.

The convention also offered a safe haven for fans to freely discuss the landscape of planet Naboo or the contents of Batman's utility belt without getting a second glance.

And it also was a place where hard-core collectors and vendors mingled with industry celebrities or perused the grounds for rare finds, which included anything from a "Lost in Space" assembly kit to a set of "Fantastic Four" plastic drinking cups.

Others just seemed to enjoy the homogenous spirit provided by comic book geeks.

"It's a whimsical flashback to my youth," says vendor Robert Martin, whose comics were showcased on a back wall in plastic sleeves.

A giant nylon banner, to his left, read: 50 percent off.

Mom (and who hasn't heard this story before?) wiped out Martin's extensive collection from the '40s and '50s. So about a decade ago, he started it up again, he said.

Martin bought an entire collection of relics from a naive San Francisco man, whose stash was worth \$10,000. Martin bought it all for \$2,000.

"He didn't have a clue—he just didn't want them," says Martin, who owns a 1941 debut issue of Captain America worth about \$15,000.

Phil Brown, who played Luke Skywalker's staunch Uncle Owen in "Star Wars," signed glossy black-and-white snaps from an unassuming table on the first floor



ACTRESS and model Julie Strain was popular with the fans at the WonderCon convention held last weekend in Oakland

most commanding item was a large air brush portrait of two speeder bike riders from "Return of the Jedi."

"I'd hate to let it go," Rooks said of the \$5,000 portrait, "but bills call, you know?"

Sure. Eric Dean Seaton, who invested a lot of his own money to start Arcane Comics two years ago, spent the weekend trying to attract new readers—and to recoup.

Under a parent company called Phantomb Publishing Co., Cain hired several of the comic book's original artists from the 1950s to draw the (gory) covers.

"This is undoubtedly the most gory cover ever done seriously for an American comic book cover."

Bennett seldom expect to cover their expenses at events like WonderCon—and that's fine with them.

"We always get excited if we can cover our air fares," Bennett said.

Jeff Cain, whose San Francisco-based comic book company has helped re-invent "Tales From the Crypt," sat at a table in a leather vest and eagerly pitched his products.

"It took me about a week to make it," Scott said of his outfit, which included coins, VCR parts, a table lamp switch and globes of paint. "I made it for Halloween."

Which seems to fit right in at WonderCon, too.

Phil Brown, who played Luke Skywalker's

staunton Uncle Owen in "Star Wars," signed glossy black-and-white snaps from an unassuming table on the first floor.

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Calendar

Submissions to *Goings on About Town* must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Habitot Children's Museum, celebrates Earth Day with recycled art activities in Habitot's art studio: Paint an old shoe. Create collages from industrial castoffs, recycle scrap worked into sculptures and more. Bring in throw-aways to recreate into art. Free with admission. On Sunday, April 25, the museum celebrates Family Arts Day with in the museum's art studio. Take-home art and craft project for the whole family. Simultaneous slide show and mini-lecture on child development through art offered at 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. All events take place at 2065 Kithridge St.

The Buddy Club presents its final performance of the season on Sunday April 25, 11 a.m. to noon at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Zappo the magician will be presents. Tickets are \$6, under two years free. For more information call 652-3100.

Project Look! presents "New Visions: An exhibition of Children's Art" at Border Books, Music and Art, 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto. The exhibit, artwork created by schoolchildren, will be on display from April 24 through May 15. An opening reception takes place April 24 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For additional details call (650) 329-2176.

Clubs

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance Pathways offers a seven-class series where dancers can move to music and drumming on Wednesdays through May 26 at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marine Ave. For additional information call 433-9591. Series cost is \$80 to \$85. A single class is \$13 to \$14.

"Know Your Strengths" is a new class at the Turning Point Career Center and will be held on Tuesday, April 28 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Calculate perceptual speed and accuracy, manual speed, and dexterity. Discover where to apply these skills. The fee is \$10 members and \$15 for non-members. The center located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information call 848-6370.

Careers Working with Seniors will be the subject of a brown bag career talk at the Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way, on Tuesday, April 27 from noon to 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mary Francis Giannoni, administrator of Garfield Park Independent Living Senior Housing. The fee is \$3 at the door. For more information call 848-6370.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

The City of El Cerrito is continuing its lap and water aerobics swim schedule through April 30. Call 215-4376 for schedule, prices and additional information.

Portraits and Places, watercolors by Susan Cornell exhibit will continue through May 17 at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Details: 524-9283.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug; 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Vista College, Through May 24: "American Fiction: 1945 to the Present" with Dr. Yehudit Goldfarb; \$36 All classes lo-



'Baby Bull' coming to town

San Francisco Giants legend and recent Hall of Fame inductee Orlando Cepeda will be at Dave's Dougout, 863-B San Pablo Ave. in Albany, on Saturday, April 24 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Purchase a copy of his new book "Baby Bull" (\$22.95) from Dave's Dougout and Cepeda will personally sign it. Cepeda will also sign other items for a fee. Photos up to 11-by-14 inches and baseballs are \$20 per item and premium items — bats, gloves, jerseys and larger photos are \$45 item. For details or to pre-order books, baseballs, bats or photos, call Dave's Dougout at 524-7120. Above is a 1960 illustration of the popular Cepeda, an East Bay resident.

cated on the UC-Berkeley campus; 841-8860.

Health

Free breast and cervical cancer screenings will be held at the J.C. Robinson, MD, Regional Cancer Center at Doctors Medical Center on Friday, April 23, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2000 Yale Road in San Pablo. Advance registration for the screening is required. Call 970-5490 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

A Day at the Races, sponsored by the Greater Bay Area Transportation Association (GBATA) takes place on Friday, April 23, 11:30 a.m. at Golden Gate Fields in Albany. Call Lynette Lezcano at 357-0844 or Dr. O. Hol at 271-9727. Tickets are \$25. Price includes Turf Club entry and buffet lunch. This is a fundraiser to support the group's Scholarship Fund and various charities.

Japanese-American Citizens League, Contra Costa Chapter (JCCL) presents "Denistry Today and Tomorrow." Dr. Leslie Hata DDS will discuss oral hygiene products, and trends in dentistry at Alta Bates, Ashby Campus on Saturday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to noon. Public is invited. For questions call 307-5385.

Stars on the Rise — Longfellow Arts and Technology Middle School, is hosting a silent auction and dessert extravaganza in conjunction with its annual students talent show. The goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund the performing arts and music programs, parent education workshops and after school athletic programs. This exciting event will be held May 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Adult School, University and Bonar Sts. For information call 482-3652.

UC-Berkeley's radio station KALX 90.7 FM is holding its second annual Invitational Poetry Slam on Wednesday, April 28. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. The event, held in honor of National Poetry Month, takes place at the Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave. Admission is \$5 and pro-

p.m. Meet at the Taft Street turnaround on top of Albany Hill. Wear long sleeve, work gloves, long pants, socks, sturdy shoes. Learn to differentiate native and exotic vegetation from UC botanist Barbara Erter. For information call Carole Fitzgerald at 528-3236 or Hortensia Chang at 526-8369.

The City of El Cerrito is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12+ for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4370.

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nanci Lipton, 644-8229.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleaning, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

New Beginnings - a chemical dependency treatment program at Doctors Medical Center in Pinole - offers community support group information, free assessments, education and counselors who can talk about drug and alcohol dependency treatment and prevention. Call 724-1520 for information.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

Random Works of Art, 1999, Fourth Annual multimedia exhibit by eight East Bay women artists, through May 23. Alta Bates Gallery, 3001 Colby St.,

THE BERKELEY WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

presented by the Telegraph Area Association in conjunction with Berkeley Festival of the Arts

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Jodie's Patty Melt & Barbecue Plus

Jodie's Patty Melt & Barbecue Pitt is a successful restaurant-grill that has been serving up healthy down home cooking with southern hospitality since 1989. Here you will find authentic southern-style barbecue.

Chef Jodie Royston uses the best meat for his dishes. Jodie's barbecue sauce recipe has been in his family for generations. Nothing in Albany or Berkeley serves up anything like it.

Royston takes an original approach to tradition at Jodie's. His background enables him to combine his southern roots with innovative, contemporary cooking ideas. Assistant chef Michelle Royston, a graduate of the California Culinary Academy lends a modern California touch to the menu. Betty Royston, Jodie's wife makes the best cheeses in town.

If there is a secret to Jodie's cooking, it's in the sauces. There's a wide variety ranging from the piquant Mexican salsa to the hot sauce he uses on meats and vegetables. But Jodie's all-vegetable barbecue sauce has the

pride of place on the menu. Try it on ribs, beef or pork brisket, hot sausage links, a burger, or a turkey sandwich special. In fact, it goes with just about everything - even a special omelet.

At Jodie's the service is just as important as the food and plays a major factor in the loyalty of their customers. The informal atmosphere encourages friendliness and Jodie's outgoing nature sets the tone - even if you are dining alone, you can still take part in the lively conversation and fun that make Jodie's such a great experience.

"Once you cross the threshold, you become part of the family," say the Roystons. "When you leave, we hope you'll feel as if you've just left your grandmothers house."

Jodie's has developed an extremely loyal and varied customer base over the years. One customer refers to it as "the anti MacDonalds" because of its unique food and distinct atmosphere.

Word-of-mouth recommendations have increased business that relocation and expansion are

necessary to accommodate their growth." The right space and financial backing will allow Jodie's to continue to feature their fine cuisine and hospitality in a larger setting," say the Roystons.

Until then, Jodie's is still the perfect gathering place for good food and companionship. As the Roystons say, "There's no place like this place, so this must be the place!"

Located at 902 Masonic @ Solano, Albany. Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Open Tues-Sun, 8 - 4. Call Sheila Sabine 526-1109.

For information on the Business Focus, call Advertising at 339-4030.

Berkeley. **Traywick Gallery**, 1316 10th St., announces "Sequences" an exhibition featuring a portfolio of print formatted by 29 internationally-known artists and published by Edition Schellman of New York and Munich. Call Katrina Traywick at 527-1214 for more information.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively.

The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

The East Bay Women Artists present an exhibit "The Creative Edge" through April 25. Gallery hours are Monday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibit takes place at Royal Ground Gallery, 2058 Mountain Boulevard. Details: 239-0348.

The Albany Arts Committee presents "Portraits and Places," watercolors by Susan Cornell, on exhibit through May 17, at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave. Details: 524-9283.

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Literary Events

Strong Women : Writers and Heroes of American Literature; 11:15 to 1:15 p.m. every Thursday; free course in the Berkeley Adult School. Older Adults Program; Helen Rippler Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 549-2793.

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Meetings

A Berkeley Town Hall meeting on Y2K (The Year 2000) takes place on Thursday, April 29 at the North Berkeley Senior Center, Martin Luther King and Hearst at 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1282 meets Tuesday, April 27 at 1 p.m. at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannage Ave., Albany. "Celebrating 25 Years."

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillsgas. Details: 704-1822.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 869-2045.

See CALENDAR, Page

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Public speaking skills and physical Toastmasters: meetings first and third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillsgas Ave., 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing Healing Story Circles sponsored by life-threatening illness, second and Wednesday of each month at North Berkeley. Call 528-1250 for information.

Toastmasters meet every 1 p.m. to 1 p.m., 700 Hearst Ave., 838-6708.

State Health Toastmasters meet every second, third and Thursday of the month from 12 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health Building, 2151 Berkeley Way, 7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. Mondays; fun informative evening spiritual practices. Instructor, 833 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 523-5237.

Alta Bates Support Group Support Group meets the second of every month, 1-2:30 p.m. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous a program providing free advice for eating problems, meets in Berkeley on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers) at St. John's Church, 2727 St. John's Ave., and in Richmond every Thursday at Kaiser Hospital, 301 New Montgomery St., C to the third floor. For information call 273-9292.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (newcomers) Off Sensibility, Albany Chapter, 2515 Hillsgas, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical meetings on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillsgas. Details: 643-7645.

Toastmasters; noon-1 p.m. stand up and say what you need with the toastmasters, 700 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 838-6708.

State Health Toastmasters meets every second, third and fourth Wednesday of the month from 12 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health Building at 2151 Berkeley Way, 649-7750.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation East Bay Neurology sponsors monthly stroke support group. Advance reservations are required. The group meets the first day of each month from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Matty Auditorium on Hemmings, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 204-4503.

Random Works of Art, 1999

Fourth Annual multimedia exhibit by eight East Bay women artists, through May 23.

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Microbrew

Merce Cunningham Dance Company comes to Zellerbach Hall April 23-24

Modern dance giant Merce Cunningham brings his Merce Cunningham Dance Company for the world premiere of his new work, BIPED, to Cal Performances Friday-Saturday, April 23 and 24 in Zellerbach Hall at 8 p.m. The piece was commissioned in part by Cal performances. British composer Gavin Bryars wrote the music for BIPED and will perform both nights with musicians Takehisa Koguri and Jim O'Rourke from the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. The decor was created by Paul Kaiser and Shelley Eshkar of Riverbed, a New York-based multimedia art studio, and costumes were designed by Suzanne Gallo.

On Friday, April 23, in addition to the world premiere of BIPED, the company will also perform two other Cunningham works: "Rune" (1959), music by Christian Wolff, record by Mark Lancaster, and "Event for Berkeley," with music by company musicians and decor by Robert Rauschenberg. On Saturday, April 24, in addition to BIPED, the program includes Cunningham's CRWDSPC (1993), set to music (blues 99) by John King and featuring decor and costumes by Mark Lancaster, and "Pond Way" (1998), which had its American premiere at Cal Performances last season, with music by Brian Eno (New Ikebukuro); decor by Roy Lichtenstein (Landscape with boat - 1996) and costumes by Suzanne Gallo.

The creation of BIPED demonstrates that Cunningham, long a pioneer and articulate advocate of technology to advance the craft of making dances, is setting the pace for his fellow two-legged creatures. To create BIPED, he used Character Studio R2, a software program developed by Unreal Pictures and published by Kinetic, a division of Autodesk. Motion capture is a process of digital recording that abstracts the movements of dancers from their bodies and transports them to the computer. For BIPED, the images were translated by digital artists Kaiser and Eshkar to create a projected decor of "hand-drawn" dancers that will envelope the Zellerbach stage.

BIPED continues the work Cunningham has done with dances such as "Ocean," his dance in the round, given its U.S. premiere at Cal Performances in 1996. Since the early 1990s, Cunningham has used computers to



ROBERT SWINSTON, Banu Ogan and Jeannie Steele of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in "Event for Berkeley," featured on Friday's program.

discover new possibilities for re-creating and re-combining dancers' body movements and phrases of dances in new ways. He created "Trackers" in 1991 with the assistance of the computerized choreography program LifeForms.

During the Cunningham's company's 1999 Cal Performances residency, dancers will conduct various UC Berkeley-based dance classes and lectures.

Also, as part of Bay Area Celebrates National Dance Week's Open Studios, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company will hold an open rehearsal Saturday, April 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, free and limited to the first 200 people who arrive. Before the performance curtain on Saturday, Cal Performances Director Robert Cole and choreographer Mark Morris will present Cunningham with a Lifetime

Achievement Award, on behalf of the Bay Area Committee on National Dance Week.

Tickets for Merce Cunningham Dance Company at Zellerbach Hall Friday-Saturday, April 23 & 24 at 8 p.m. are priced at \$18, \$28 and \$36, and are available through the Cal Performance Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at 642-9988 to charge by phone, and at the door.

Tickets are also available through all BASS outlets and through BASS

tickets at 762-BASS, and the BASS

Arts Line at (415) 776-1999.

Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students,

UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount.

Details: 642-9988 or visit the Cal

performances Web site at

www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

information call 548-1761.

The Berkeley High School Development Group presents a benefit Rhythm and Blues Party showcasing the best of Berkeley on Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m., in the Berkeley Community Theater, Alston Way and Milvia. The benefit concert will star The Johnny Otis Show featuring the Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble, the Berkeley High School African Dancers and Drummers and Emcee Belva Davis.

Johnny Otis, Berkeley High School class of '32, celebrates a 50-year-long career in the music business. There will be dinner and auction at the Shattuck Hotel from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. catered by the Santa Fe Bar and Grill/Santa Fe Bistro featuring Navarro Vineyard Wines. Tickets are from \$20 to \$100. For more information and to order tickets call 649-1544.

The Bay Area Friends of Tibet will present live Tibetan music and special guests speakers on Saturday, April 24 at 4:15 p.m. prior to the 5:15 screening of "Windhorse." Traditional Tibetan food will be offered for sale along with raffle tickets for prizes donated by local Tibetan merchants. "Windhorse" is veteran documentarian Paul Wagner's first feature film. The film protests the Chinese Communist occupation of Tibet and graphically shows the struggle of the Tibetan people to maintain their cultural and religious heritage. Admission: \$7. For more information call Baot at 848-1038 or Max Butler, 235-5984.

Kabbalah Shabbat. The Songs of Songs Minyan come together for a community Kabbalah Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. one Friday, every month for egalitarian Jewish spiritual practice. The service focuses on the rich content of Jewish sacred music, poetry, prayer and prayer from around the world. The Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center is located at 1414 Walnut Street. Details: 848-0237.

"Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line

information call 548-1761.

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Stroke Support Group for Stroke survivors, their families and friends. No advance reservations required. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Maffly Auditorium, Henric Campus, 2001

Dwight Way.

Lecture/Workshop

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Dwight Way.

Religion

The Nyingma Institute, 1815 High-

land Place, presents Buddhist teacher Bob Byren on Sunday, April 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. Byren speaks on "How to Listen to the Dharma," based on Patrul Rinpoche's "The Words of My Perfect Teacher." The lecture is free. Call 843-6812 for additional information.

"Daily Word Readers": Anyone interested in meeting with others to study the Unity principles contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

A celebratory evening of meditation and chanting with spiritual leader Sri Sri (three shree) Ravi Shankar, from southern India will take place at St. John's Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. Canker has addressed the United Nations, chaired the International Conference of Religions in Kyoto, Japan, and is the

founder and inspiration of many charitable foundations around the world.

Suggested donation is \$10. All proceeds benefit the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit educational and charitable organization. St. John's Presbyterian Church is at 2727 College Ave. For further information call the Oakland Art of Living office at 654-3439.

Theater, Dance & Film

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, 1301

Shattuck Ave., continues with its produc-

tion of "Sylvia" on Friday and Saturday

at 8 p.m. The production will con-

clude through May 8 with one Sunday

performance May 6. Admission is \$9

with discounts for groups of 15 or

more. Reservations 528-5620.

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Gypsy

FROM PAGE C3

soft-shoe dances, lift-the-roof choruses and love songs.

Joanne Gabel is music director for the show. She will be joined by Max Levitt, Walt Loew and Andrew Gabel to provide the music.

Maryse Young is the choreographer. Matt Flynn can be counted on for a classy set design. Jan Kropowski is in charge of costumes, makeup and hair to lend an air of authenticity to this lovely old timer of a musical.

"Gypsy" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 29 with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. April 25 and May 2, 9 and 16. The Sunday matinee performances are followed by a discussion with the director and cast. Tickets are \$12 general; \$6 for ages 18 and younger with ID. Call 510-524-9132. Contra Costa Civic Theatre is at 951 Pomona Ave, El Cerrito.

"Little Me"

Speaking of burlesque, there's more of that old boffo-style comedy going on at the Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. "Little Me," Neil Simon's

book about a girl's flamboyant crossing from the wrong side of the tracks to international fame on the right side, is a funny show. It opened April 2 and plays weekends through May 13.

"Little Me," with music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, is also getting a bit long in the tooth. It made its New York debut in 1962, a few years after "Gypsy." But the music and lyrics aren't in the same league as the older show, so "Gypsy" can retain the distinction of last important traditional musical comedy.

What does distinguish "Little Me," both the original and the Masquers production, is the opportunity for a tour de force by the principal player who gets to take hilarious turns at being eight different characters.

Sid Caesar, then at the pinnacle of his television career, did it in New York. John Blytt, a newcomer to the Masquers, does the honors for the Richmond group. He pulls it off with flair and gusto. Not to mention some lighting costume changes with the help of a lot of dressers waiting in the wings.

Blytt is ably assisted on stage by two actresses playing the role of the heroine at various times in her climb from wif to international glamour goddess.

Susan Rabin plays the younger Belle Poitrine. Deidre Green plays the older Belle. Momma is played by Tura Franzen.

Belle's career is told through the device of a writer, Patrick Dennis (played by Frederick Lein), who is interviewing her for a book. It works well, but the story line is secondary to the vaudeville nature of the story.

Kris Bell's choreography and Carla Pollard's costuming put a lively gait and sheen on the show.

There's a refreshing tongue-in-cheek tone to the antics. And it's a spare production as far as scenery goes just colorful flats. You may chide yourself for laughing at such silliness. But most will secretly enjoy every minute of it.

The music is serviceable without burdening your memory. The musicians include Pat King (keyboards), Barbara Kohler (percussion), Jo Lusk (reeds) and Dean Starnes (piano).

"Little Me" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Richmond. Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. is today. Other Sunday performances at 2:30 p.m. will be on April 25 and May 2 and 9. Tickets are \$12. Call 510-232-4031.

Morgan

FROM PAGE C3

serves on its Board of Directors.

The IBJ Foundation, Inc. of The Industrial Bank of Japan, Ltd. will be recognized for its commitment to the education of global citizens and for its support of International House's Multicultural/International Speakers Bureau — a program designed to enrich the K-12 grade social studies curriculum and promote the concept of global citizenship in California public schools.

Former honorees have included industrialist David Rockefeller, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal, former Secretary of State George Shultz, CNN Founder Ted Turner, musician and actor Harry

Belafonte, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, AirTouch Communications CEO Arun Sarin, former UC Berkeley Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien and Violinist Yehudi Menuhin, among others.

With nearly 300 guests expected to attend, this gala celebration brings together business, diplomatic and education leaders as well as a representative group of current residents who will provide a vibrant array of artistic performances from around the world. Individual tickets are available at \$200 per person and tables of ten are available at \$750 (Benefactor), \$5,000 (Patron), and \$2,500 (Sponsor). Proceeds will support programs and scholarships at International House.

International House, founded in 1930, is a residential and program cen-

ter dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding. It is the largest and most diverse multinational residential cultural center in the western United States. It house currently houses 600 students and scholars, one-half from over 60 foreign countries. It house sponsors over 700 programs per year that include lecture forums, cultural festivals, cross-cultural workshops and discussions, and an international speakers bureau.

Though closely associated with UC Berkeley, International House is an entirely self-supporting and separate non-profit organization that receives no operating support from the University or the State of California.

For further information on the International House Celebration and Awards Dinner call 642-4128.

Events

FROM PAGE C3

Street Project. Featured artists to include Brunsen Kelly, Mary George, Saiman Li, Veronica DeJesus, Rebecca Miller,

Michael Blasi and The Umbra Puppet Theater. The event takes place from 2-9 p.m. and performances start at 4 p.m.

Music for a Wedding

The Church of St. David of Wales will

present "Music for a Wedding" to be held

Friday May 7 at 11:15 a.m. and Simon Berry presents a selection of music suitable

for weddings. Whether you are

planning a wedding, celebrating an an-

ditional foundation or many charitable

organizations. Suggested donation is \$10. All proceeds benefit the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit educational and charitable organization. St. John's Presbyterian Church is at 2727 College Ave. For further information call the Oakland Art of Living office at 654-3439.

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NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

RHYMES OF THE CENTURIES

BY FRANK LONGO

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Pope Alexander

VII

103 Certain

104 Gung-ho about

105 Robert

Fulghum's "It

Was on Fire

When —

Down on It"

108 Polish place

109 17th century

"The Night

Watch" painted

...

114 Gum arabic

source

120 Director Ferrara

121 — Lady

122 18th century.

Yale University

founded

56 13th century:

"Tristan und

Isolde" penned

...

62 Belief

63 It may be on the

line

64 — first!"

65 Certain laundry

load

66 14th century:

Tamerlane

fights ...

73 Allowance

136 "Un — di"

(Puccini aria)

137 19th century

Simón Bolívar

conquers

143 — wip

146 Beach sight

77 Attends Exeter,

e.g. 148 — al-Arab

waterway

149 Kind of job

150 Quercit source

152 Order against

the Jedi, in "Star

Wars"

154 Singing parts

156 20th century:

Two World Wars

take place ...

164 Gifts that grow

on you?

165 Base for

shingles

166 Some Christians

167 Part of the

Ottoman Empire

until 1829

168 Lycurgus and

Lysander

169 Aromatherapy

product

DOWN

1 Gull's sound

2 Ingredient in a

black and tan

3 Young —

4 Zingers

5 Like some

couples

6 Employ, in

Exeter

7 "Troades"

tragedian

29 Prefix with polar

8 With 9-Down,

shavers

9 See 8-Down

10 Indian weight

11 Support giver

12 Sophisticated

trader, for short

13 Picks up

14 House Speaker

during Carter's

Presidency

15 Tree

16 "Kanthapura"

novelist

17 Maundy money

18 Quickened, with

"up"

19 Response to a

sneez

20 "Liar Liar"

actress Cheri

21 "Forget it!"

22 Mai tai

ingredient

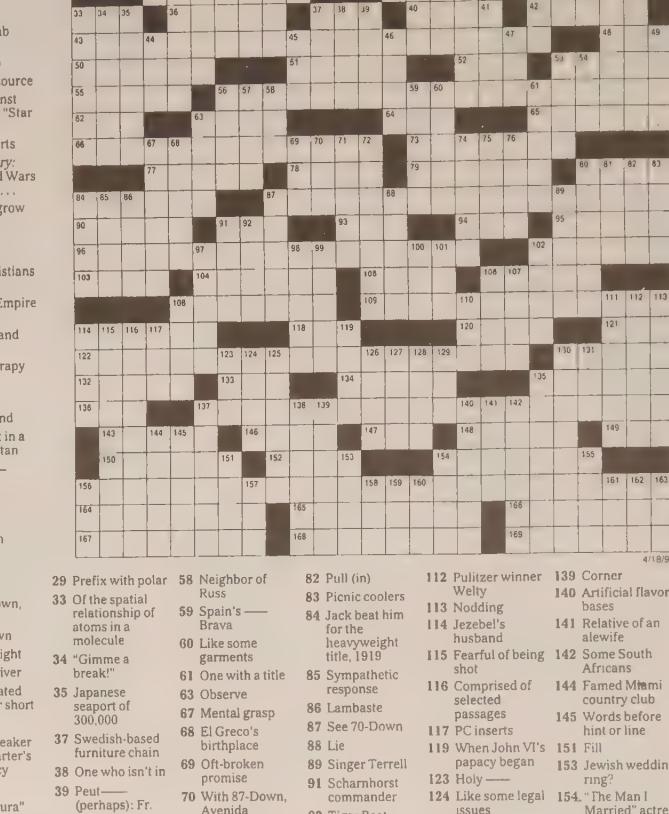
23 Charlie

Chaplin's

half-brother

24 Trust, e.g. Abbr

28 Kind of appeal



Easy Clues

ACROSS

1 Fereny Kenyan

terrorts: 2 wds.

8 Town between

San Jose and

Fresno 2 wds.

16 I.L. Cool J's

output 2 wds.

24 Own, untrained

Spanish-language

drama of 1984

2 wds.

25 Mistake-free

Like some Charles

ives works (A

REALTOY anag.)

27 11th century: Olaf

Haraldsson

defeated ... 3 wds.

30 Films without

sound

31 Valley, Calif.

32 Incite 2 wds.

33 Fast jet

36 "Excalibur" star

Williamson

37 11th century: Yale

University founded

... 3 wds.

38 Around Prefix

33 Involving the

arrangement of

atoms in space

(CITERS anag.)

34 Kin of "Oy"

35 Honshu

prefecture or its

capital (AT MAYO

anag.)

36 Sweden-based

business chain

37 Dweeb

38 Raison d'

41 Suffix with cigar or

kitchen

<div data-bbox="716 881 770 891" data-label="88 Damascus citizen</div>
<div data-bbox="716 891 770 901" data-label="89 Flamboyant Art</div>
<div data-bbox="716 901 770 911" data-label="90 Process</div>
<div data-bbox="716 911 770 921" data-label="91 Performer</div>
<div data-bbox="716 921 770 931" data-label="92 Jester</div>
<div data-bbox="716 931 770 941" data-label="93 Peruvian</div>
<div data-bbox="716 941 770 951" data-label="94 Bridal ring</div>
<div data-bbox="716 951 770 961" data-label="95 Knob</div>
<div data-bbox="716 961 770 971" data-label="96 Canyon song</div>
<div data-bbox="716 971 770 981" data-label="97 160-Passenger</div>
<div data-bbox="716 981 770 991" data-label="98 Shut forcefully</div>
<div data-bbox="716 991 770 1001" data-label="99 See 70-Down</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1001 770 1011" data-label="100 Bikini top</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1011 770 1021" data-label="101 Kind of securities</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1021 770 1031" data-label="102 French cathedral city</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1031 770 1041" data-label="103 Arrests</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1041 770 1051" data-label="104 Playwright Eugene</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1051 770 1061" data-label="105 60's singer Terrell</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1061 770 1071" data-label="106 Super</div>
<div data-bbox="716 1071 770 1081" data-label="107</div>
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Legals

The Public's Right to Know

California Probate Code. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: PAUL A ROTHAUS
1319 NEWTON STREET
KEY WEST, FL 33040
(Telephone) 305-283-8468
Petition The El Cerrito Journal April 15, 22, 29, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2432

The Name of the Business: Past Forward, 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond, CA 94803 Is registered to the following owner:

Rebecca Allen, 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond, CA 94803

This business is conducted by an individual named **Rebecca Allen** to commence to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 17, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 07, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2437

The Name of the Business: Mae Lai's Beauty Center, 478 Sunvalley Mall, Concord, CA 94520 Is registered to the following owners:

Peter Nguyen, Thach Phuong, 5281 Clearbrook Drive, Concord, CA 94521

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 08, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2467

The Name of the Business: Mae Lai's Beauty Center, 478 Sunvalley Mall, Concord, CA 94520

Is registered to the following owners:

Peter Nguyen, Thach Phuong, 5281 Clearbrook Drive, Concord, CA 94521

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 6, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 6, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-1951

The Name of the Business: The KIowa Group, 9845 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94563

Is registered to the following owner:

J. Christopher Hoyt, Louis Elliott Hoyt, 9845 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon, CA 94563

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 17, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on March 18, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-1950

The Name of the Business: Home Tech Repair, 5144 Plain Cloud Drive, El Sobrante, CA 94093

Is registered to the following owner:

E.A. Robinson, Inc., CA

This business is conducted by a general partner:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 1, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on March 26, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2656

The Name of the Business: Serenescapes, P.O. Box 182 Canyon, CA 94516-0168

Also 15949 Via Del Sol, San Leandro, CA 94580

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

John F. Hutchens, 15949 Via Del Sol, San Lorenzo, CA 94560

This business is conducted by an individual:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 15, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 15, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2645

The Name of the Business: Postcard Day Care, 641 Stege Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Robert R. Washington Harvey, 641 Stege Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804

This business is conducted by an individual:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 15, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 15, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2554

The Name of the Business: PER2401C Loan No. 123485-4

Duncan, 4930 Spurway, Antioch, CA 94509

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Ralph V. Cruz, Carter T. Cruz, 4928 Spur Way, Antioch, CA 94509

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 12, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 12, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2554

The Name of the Business: PER2401C Loan No. 123485-4

Duncan, 4930 Spurway, Antioch, CA 94509

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Ralph V. Cruz, Carter T. Cruz, 4928 Spur Way, Antioch, CA 94509

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 12, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 12, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2554

The Name of the Business: PER2401C Loan No. 123485-4

Duncan, 4930 Spurway, Antioch, CA 94509

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Ralph V. Cruz, Carter T. Cruz, 4928 Spur Way, Antioch, CA 94509

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 12, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 12, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

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Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 12, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

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Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Ralph V. Cruz, Carter T. Cruz, 4928 Spur Way, Antioch, CA 94509

This business is conducted by a husband and wife:

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 12, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 12, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

File No. 99-2676
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED March 1, 1999. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

It is hereby registered to the following owner:

Michael Jeffrey Stephen, 3407 Maywood Drive, Richmond, CA 94803

This business is conducted by an individual named **Michael Jeffrey Stephen**.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 24, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on March 24, 1999.

The Journal April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2432

The Name of the Business: Past Forward, 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond, CA 94803 Is registered to the following owner:

Rebecca Allen, 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond, CA 94803

This business is conducted by an individual named **Rebecca Allen**.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 17, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 07, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2437

The Name of the Business: American Guy Exchange, 210 G Street, Antioch, CA 94541

Is hereby registered to the following owners:

Rich B. Santos, 4177 Amargosa Drive, Antioch, CA 94531

Ed Palero, 3410 Greenbrier Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Fred Robinson, 2400 Shady Willow Lane, Brentwood, CA 94513

This business is conducted by an individual named **Rich B. Santos**.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 6, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 6, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2647

The Name of the Business: Synchronicity, 21 Vista Del Mar, Orinda, CA 94563

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Diane Paragucci, 21 Vista Del Mar, Orinda, CA 94563

Theresa Kodes, 680 Rock Is Ct., Danville, CA 94526

Cynthia Borcena-Jones, 2426 Seaford Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

This business is conducted by a General Partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 6, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 6, 1999.

The Journal April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-2245

The Name of the Business: Synchronicity, 21 Vista Del Mar, Orinda, CA 94563

Is hereby registered to the following owner:

Ronald E. Hams, 21 Vista Del Mar, Orinda, CA 94563

This business is conducted by a General Partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on April 13, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 13, 1999.

The Journal April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 1999

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Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on April 13, 1999.

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Autos
1998 Integra LS, 59K, \$150-521-5817.
#530 IT loaded, seat, leather, \$22,800
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CHEVY 1999 TAHOE LS, 4x4, CD, Pwr seats, 12K miles #385072, \$29,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311
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HONDA 1984 Accord 5-speed, CD player, Power steering, 161K, smogged, good condition. \$1100/ BO 510-527-5164
HONDA 1991 Civic XL, very clean, low mileage, \$8,200 510-527-5164

101 Autos
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HONDA'S FROM \$500 Payer, 4-door, Tax, Tax, Tax, etc. For listings 1-800-319-3223 ext 2714
HONDA 1986 Civic Wagon, 5-sp, 4-WD, 113K, orig owner, runs well, body okay and other charities. 510-451-5949
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HONDA 1991 Civic XL, very clean, low mileage, \$8,200 510-527-5164

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FORD 1997 Grand Prix EX, condition, book value \$18,100. First \$17,750 takes it. 510-339-6225
TOYOTA '94 CAMRY XLE, 6-4dr, loaded, ABS, CD, moonroof, alloys, 64K miles \$13,412. 510-428-2966
TOYOTA '91 Camry DX Wgn, A/T, all per, recent serv, 79K, exc. cond 510-339-6213
TOYOTA '89 Corolla DX 175K, auto, A/C, excellent condition, owner \$2155 510-549-0000
TOYOTA 1994 Corolla, 4-dr, 13K miles, no A/C, mint condition. \$8,300/ obo 510-655-5597
TOYOTA 1991 Pickup 1/2 ton, 47K miles, 5-sp, good condition, orig. orig. \$4,500 510-644-1014
TOYOTA 1979 240DL Wagon, Burgundy, AT, AC, Rock, 3rd-seat, hatch, snow tires/wheels 100K, \$4,900 510-444-1014
VOLVO 1986 240DL Wagon, black, perfect, garaged, all records, \$15,500. BO 510-644-0346
VOLVO 1997 JETTA Wolfsburg Edition, low miles, Roof #614874 \$5995 Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311
NISSAN 1986 MAXIMA GLE, Leather, loaded #400857, \$12,995 Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311
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ALAMEDA - 1029 Aquar Way off Broadway Ter, race Saturday 9-4. Furn clothes, small appliances, lots of good stuff!

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more

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FREE to good home, adult female leopard Gecko with cage. 510-832-4459

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304 Musical Instruction

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Attn: Personnel or fax resumes to
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Prestigious wine producer/ distributor seeks Accountant for Oakland office. Duties: incl. preparation of tax returns (Fed/ State), payroll and benefits, preparation of financial statements/ reports of winery operations, winery inventory costing, BS in Accounting or equiv + solid exp as well as potential to supervise production. Reports to Accounting Mgr and CFO/ Solomon/ FAS 101. Windows 95/ Lotus exp desired. Wine industry knowledge a plus. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Fax resume and salary history to 510-286-2010 or e-mail at gfr@richochet.net

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The Alameda Boys & Girls Club is seeking candidates to assist and support the Executive Director in the administration of the club. Duties: include basic accounting, brnts, admin, office mgmt, direct mail, and assisting in the planning and stages of the club's annual events. Computer skills req'd. QuickBooks experience is a plus. Four days/ wk to start occasional evs. Includes full brnt package. Please submit resume to The Alameda Boys & Girls Club, P.O. Box 1068, Alameda, CA 94501 or fax to 510-522-3320

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Perform clerical duties such as date entry, Wd Processing, filing and record keeping. Must be comp lit. 3 yrs of Admin exp. \$10.75 hr plus full benefits. Resume and cover letter to 510-644-0675

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This person must be able to drive a stick-shift truck, do fixit projects around the store, and be physically capable of some heavy lifting. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, some overtime. Please fax a resume to Jana at 510-843-0666, or drop one off at the store, 2204 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

DENTAL Receptionist

experienced, benefits. Berkeley office. Fax resume to 510-526-1027

Today's Answers:

1. Room at the top

2. Drove up from the south

3. 3 Wuzzles Booklets

"The Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" (\$4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

4. Print Your Answers Here:

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AUTO SHORTS

NASHVILLE

Saturn moving closer in SUV manufacturing drive

Saturn's hopes for a future sports-utility vehicle received a boost with General Motors' North American Strategy Board gave GM's small-car vehicle line team responsibility for producing it.

The team is responsible for the Saturn brand. It is expected that Saturn Corp.'s Spring Hill, Tenn., factory will build the SUV, which is already under development.

General Motors' board has not approved the project or a manufacturing site.

MUNICH, Germany

BMW AG losing autonomy

Rover Group's days of freedom are nearing an end. BMW AG's new management team is moving quickly to integrate the ailing subsidiary, which has been allowed to run independently for five years.

A new management structure composed of several BMW board members will take direct control of Rover functions. Some top Rover jobs are expected to be eliminated.

"We have learned that the original strategy — BMW leads BMW and Rover leads Rover — did not work," said BMW Chairman Joachim Milberg. Milberg became chairman in February following the ouster of Bernd Pischetsrieder and product development boss Wolfgang Reitzle.

Pischetsrieder had come under fire because of mounting losses at Rover.

DEARBORN, Mich.

Ford CEO ga-ga over Volvo (S80, that is)

Volvo's hot-selling new S80 has received some lavish praise from Ford Motor Co. CEO Jac Nasser, who described the new S80 platform as fantastic.

"It is very versatile and will be used to launch different Volvo models. It is in our best interest to develop the S80 platform," he said.

Nasser said no final decisions have been made on sharing the platform. "We could use evolutions of the S80 platform for new Lincoln or Jaguars or use Lincoln or Jaguar platforms for future Volvos," he claimed.

"With the Lincoln LS, the Jaguar S-Type and the Ford Thunderbird, we clearly showed how we can offer very distinct products aimed at different segments — but all based on the same platform."

WASHINGTON

Feds cautious over side airbag risk potential

Stung by the outcry over deaths and injuries caused by front airbags, federal officials are challenging carmakers to prove side airbags are safe before the devices become commonplace.

"We are determined to not allow a repeat of what we experienced with frontal airbags," said Philip Recht, deputy administrator of the National Highway Traffic Administration.

Recht, who is leaving the agency this month, said NHTSA's precautionary approach "is somewhat a result of lessons learned."

ARLINGTON, Va.

Bug owner Justice Blackmun loyal to the end

The success of Volkswagen's new Beetle has been caused by its ability to make people smile. That's true even at a funeral.

The cremated remains of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun were transported to their final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery in a blue new Beetle.

Blackmun's family leased the Beetle for the funeral procession as a way to commemorate the string of VW bugs the justice drove for many years, according to court spokesperson Kathleen Arberg.

Arberg said family members were unable to find a vintage Bug and chose instead to rent a new Beetle of about the same color as Blackmun's last car.

Justice Blackmun, who retired in 1994 after 24 years on the bench, died March 4 at 90.

DETROIT, Mich.

Buick takes on sport wagon champs in market share fight

A hybrid sport wagon to compete against the likes of the Lexus RX 300 and the Mercedes ML320 is being developed by Buick.

Currently billed the Rendezvous, the sport wagon is slated for production in March 2001, according to a supplier involved with the project. It will use the platform of General Motors' next-generation minivan, according to the same supplier.

Code-named GMX257, the vehicle will have all-wheel drive and a 3.4-liter V-6 engine. It will share mechanics with the Pontiac Aztek, a sport wagon scheduled to debut shortly before the Rendezvous.

Sport wagons combine light-truck and car styling and equipment. Buick currently has no truck models in its lineup.

Compiled by Arnold Wechter

GM kicks off model year with world debuts

The emphasis on new products unveiled at the auto show in the Big Apple was more on bread-and-butter than sizzle this year.

General Motors Corp. dominated the show with new-model introductions. At the top of the list was the new Saturn L-Series, the GM division's first new vehicle line in a decade of existence. Based on the Opel Vectra in Germany, the midsize L-Series (the L stands for Large) is available as an LS sedan, which goes head-to-head with the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord, or the LW station wagon.

Bearing a resemblance to the S-Series (S for Small) and wearing the plastic body panels of all Saturns, the L-Series offers a four-cylinder engine and a Saturn first — a V6 engine. The new models go on sale this summer. Prices were not announced.

GM's Oldsmobile division unveiled the latest generation of the car that started the division on its new mission. The Aurora, first introduced in 1994 as a new flagship model, set Oldsmobile on a course as GM's upscale import-fighting brand.

The 2001 Aurora features less dramatic styling than the original; its looks appear more in line with the successful Intrigue. Smaller and 300 pounds lighter than the version it replaces, the front-drive Aurora will offer a V6 for the first time, along with its highly regarded 250-horsepower V8. The new Aurora goes on sale next spring.

GM also introduced the new generation of its critically important Chevrolet Suburban and GMC Yukon. The new models are based

Down the Road

By Michelle Krebs

on the same platform as the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickup trucks, completely redesigned last fall. GMC will also have a version of the Suburban.

The Yukon's virtual twin, the Chevrolet Tahoe, will also be new for fall. The Yukon and Tahoe, for the first time, include a third seat to make them better able to compete with the Ford Expedition. They also added side airbags.

Ford Motor Co. introduced a redesigned version of its best-selling car, the Taurus. Styling, once the dominate feature of the original Taurus introduced in the 1980s and the previous version, has given way to function and safety in the latest generation.

More mainstream in appearance than the highly stylized version it replaces, the new Taurus features Ford's new advanced safety belt system and adjustable pedals.

Nissan's luxury division, Infiniti, used the New York auto show to debut its new I30, its highest-volume car. Based on the redesigned Nissan Maxima for 2000, the I30 has a roomier interior than the model it replaces. Horsepower from its V6 engine is up to 272 at 227. The I30 now offers a navigation system linked to a 24-hour response center for emergency help. Other new options include Xenon headlamps and a rear sunshade.

Nissan showed its Z concept car again, as it did in Detroit, but this time declared the automaker, indeed, will have the affordable two-
seater sports car on the market within three years.



GM unveils the next generation of its acclaimed Chevy Suburban.

fold and can be removed. The third-row seat, like that of the Honda Odyssey, flips into the floor.

In keeping with its setting, the New York auto show did offer some razzle-dazzle along with bread and butter. Aston Martin unveiled its DB7 Vantage with 420 horsepower from its 6.0-liter V12 engine. It boasts a top speed of 180 miles per hour and 0-to-60 miles per hour in less than five seconds.

Mercedes-Benz showed its CL coupe for the first time in North America. It initially will be offered

as the CL500, with a 5.0-liter V8 engine; a V12 model coming in summer. BMW introduced coupe versions of its 3 Series in July.

BMW also displayed which it claims is the world's production sedan. Saab is a new version of its 900, which derives its name from jet fighter. Its 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine has been modified to produce 225 horsepower.

Saab hits upon graceful, sporty wagon with new 9-

Road Test

By Marion Wechter

DEL MAR — Unlike many station wagons, which have a boxy appearance, the new Saab 9-5 wagon has graceful lines, but beneath those lines lurks an attitude. A sporty station wagon.

Can you believe a performance-oriented Saab station wagon?

Similar to the 9-5 sedan, there are two engines available. A 3.0-liter V-6 turbocharged engine and 2.3-liter low-pressure turbocharged four-cylinder which are designed for performance combined with higher fuel efficiency and lower-exhaust emissions.

Safety matters

As with all Saabs, safety is of the utmost priority. Rigid high tensile steel members surround the passenger compartment with a so-called pendulum "B" pillar structure, are designed to reduce side impact injuries. Side airbags are positioned in the outside bolsters of the front seat backs. This unusual position of the airbags protects head and torso. Sensors in the door measure changes in air pressure, deploying the bag in the event of an emergency.

Adjustable three-point inertia reel seat belts protect passengers from sliding under the belt. This new safety concept is available for all five seating positions.

Head restraints as standard equipment are easily adjusted, and available for both front and back seat passengers.

See SAAB, Page 10

SPARE PARTS

YUKON SHOW TRUCK

GMC forges a new road to innovative sport utility vehicle design with the Yukon Show Truck. Many of the features on the show SUV will be available on the production Yukon.

Richly appointed interior features include a new power sliding/tilt glass sunroof with "express open" and a carbon fiber finish on the instrument panel bezel, door trim plates, con-

sole and overhead extensions.

GMC says the 2000 Yukon exhibits world-class ride and handling with a 23 percent stiffer body and chassis.

ALL-NEW CL COUPE

The Mercedes-Benz flagship CL coupe will be offered exclusively as the CL500 model early next year.

Powered by a new-generation 302 horsepower 5.0-liter V8, the all-new CL features Active Body Control, a high-performance active suspension system that virtually eliminates body

roll and pitch during cornering, braking and acceleration.

The new model is more than 500 pounds lighter than its predecessor.

LEXUS IS

Lexus plans to bring the European compact sports sedan IS to the U.S. market in mid-2000. The Lexus IS features a front engine, rear-wheel drive configuration, offering the best overall package of driver control and performance.

Motor Matters



The Auto Section

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Consumer Reports finally gets what 'fun to drive' means

Drive, she said

By Denise McLuggage

was initially surprised to discover that Consumer Reports had chosen the Volkswagen Passat as the Family Sedan in its annual April issue, dethroning the Toyota Camry (by a little bit).

My surprise didn't stem from my love so little of the Passat, but because I thought so much of it. And I've become used to my preferences now rarely jibing with those of Consumer Reports. Perhaps it's time to accept that changes have occurred in the mind-set of those test cars for CR.

Once it was certain that if you followed the advice of Consumer Reports when it came to buying a car, you would end with the automotive equivalent of the sensible shoe. It could wear well, protect you from elements, but probably be as dull as a muddy puddle.

On those days the words "fun to drive" were antithetical to what the old gray people at the institution decided to consider the very purpose of a car — to carry people and things economically and safely as possible. Heaven forbid you should enjoy the process. I remember many years when the magazine sniffed at a greater sports car as being grossly impractical because it had room for two people. Hello!

Over the years, however, the powers began to pay attention to the

Engine flooding not limited to older cars — it is common to all

Dear Doctor: I own a 1999 Volvo S70. Recently, I had a problem with starting up. It was towed to the dealer and we were told the engine flooded. The service manager said it happened because I started engine up and shut it off, and tried to restart it within 15 to 30 seconds. He said the fuel was not heated and wet the spark plugs. He said that the engine runs very well when cold and to use 87 octane gasoline, because it won't run as rich. I feel a pulsating in the brake occasionally. The dealer said it could be the anti-lock brake system activating. What's your opinion? Jody

Homes, autos suffer when defects left unchecked and out of view

Understand how most people feel when having remodeling work done. To me, it is a feeling similar to the one I get when I have work done on my vehicles. With remodeling and car repair usually an inconvenience and the job is messy and time-consuming. When I take my trucks in for work, I am told I need a re-authorized framers and that framers is available and that it will cost an arm and a leg when I get to the shop. I absolutely dread having my vehicles worked on, just as you may be living through a construction project.

One of my work trucks started making a noise in the exhaust system. I told my foreman to take it in to a mechanic because I had lost faith in the one that I had been using. Over the years, like a bad relationship, you hang in there because it's familiar, but enough is enough at this point, hence the need for a new shop. When the new mechanic checked the exhaust system, he indicated that the engine had not been installed properly. He'd have to pull the engine and reinstall everything. I had no idea that the engine had been incorrectly installed, given that I'd spent a lot of time under the hood of my truck. This hidden defect did not become apparent until the work was well out of warranty, the same type of thing also happened a lot in construction. Much construction work, when it is complete, is hidden from view and, if there is a problem, it may be years before the problem becomes apparent.

One example that comes to mind is the presence in houses of good old, popularly misnamed dry rot. Recently I have been working on a house that had been cleared by a pest control inspector. The owner of the house, being thoroughly dissatisfied with the contractor who had done the pest-control work and the work on her house had hired a consultant. No matter what was found or observed, the contractor had treated her as if she were a ignorant child and had ignored concerns.

He hired me to assess the quality of the work of the previous contractor and to get the job closer to completion. When I removed the siding on the side of the house, it was apparent that most of the sills and many of the studs in the subarea were rotten, but this decay had been missed by a pest control inspector. It would have been possible to probe for this

Firm Foundation

By Don Pearman



Don Pearman
Both remodeling and car repair are usually an inconvenience and the work is messy...

decay from the interior, but apparently this had not been done and the decay remained unnoticed. In the front of the house, there is a garage and there had been a deck installed on top of the garage. The garage roof had become the deck floor. On a previous pest control report, someone indicated that the old fiberglass waterproofing on the deck/roof

should be removed, the decayed wood be replaced, and a new deck, waterproofing and railing be installed. In doing this work, the previous contractor had left the existing plywood from the flat roof system in place and had sistered-in joists next to the old joists under the plywood.

When I asked him why he had done this, he said that he had cut the decay out of the old joists and that it had been easier to reinforce the joists by sistering-in new joists under the plywood.

The deck over the garage requires the same live load as the floors of a house: 40 lbs. per square foot. It is also necessary to have installed handrails that will support 200 lbs. of weight pushing on them. This garage/deck had been fitted with a 4x4 notched and nailed onto the side of the rim joist.

However, the rim joist was still rotten. Both the load bearing capacity of the deck and the railing are important because there have been many injuries, and even deaths, caused by collapsing decks that have been incorrectly constructed.

I told the contractor to remove the inadequate plywood, the 4x4's and

for Best Small Sedan. I like the Lexus RX300 in the Large Sport Utility Vehicle category as well, except I think I might choose the new Jeep Grand Cherokee.

The new Grand Cherokee is wonderfully improved in build quality, and has the best off-road capabilities of anything short of the miraculous Mercedes-Benz G-Wagen (which sells for \$116,000 and up.)

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JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE IS 'wonderfully improved... the best off-road ability short of an M-B G-wagen.'

but my current personal favorite among pickups is the GMC Sierra. (Or the very-like-it Chevy Silverado.)

Pickups are perhaps the vehicles most laden with emotion. Truck buy-

ers are staunch in their brand loyalty.

Consumer Reports selected the

Mercedes-Benz E320 as the very best

car it had tested in the past year. Not

bad, CR, but I like the Audi A8. And

the Mercedes that moved me most

was the C43, an AMG version of the

C-Class. Still and all, nice going,

Consumer Reports.

Defrost has owner heated

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Dear Ray: When the defroster is on, the air conditioning compressor is engaged. The computer is pro-

See AUTODOC, Page 10

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HILL MCLEAF'S restored 1942 Dodge Carryall is a veteran.

PARKER PHOTO

1942 Dodge Carryall served allies as WWII radio truck

America's car and truck manufacturers began building weapons of war soon after the Dec. 7, 1941 attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Seven months and a week after the day that still lives in infamy, a 1942 Dodge 4x4 WC-53 Carryall truck was delivered to the U.S. Army. It was swathed in olive drab with the exception of drab blue hood numbers W-2073248 and white stenciled bumper numbers. It was one of 8,400 such vehicles manufactured for the military and was assigned to the 14th Armored Division as service vehicle No. 24 in Camp Chaffee, Ark. It was destined to become a radio truck.

Behind the driver is mounted radio set SCR-528, which is one radio transmitter BC-604 and one radio receiver BC-603. A seat, against the right side, for the radio operator, is perpendicular to the front seat. Stenciled on the dashboard above the 60-mph speedometer is the warning "35 MPH." The only item not in the 15-foot, 5-inch-long truck that isn't olive drab is the 17-inch shiny black, five-spoke steering wheel.

The 14th Armored Division was activated at Camp Chaffee and left, headed for Europe, where the division distinguished itself. As many as 505 of their soldiers were killed in action in France and Germany.

After the war, the radio truck was declared surplus and was bought by a gravel and concrete company in Oklahoma City.

In March 1991, the Dodge Carryall was sold to John McCleaf of Dayton, Md., an aficionado of military vehicles. McCleaf trucked the vehicle home and unloaded it in his driveway. He fired up the 230-cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine just long enough to move the truck into the garage — the big block had cracked. For the next three years, he searched for the increasingly rare parts he would need to restore his Dodge truck.

When the Carryalls were surpassed after the war, most of them were used as panel pickup trucks," McCleaf said. "The antenna bracket and associated bush guard along with the middle and rear seats were the first items to be removed — and usually sold. Now, fifty-some years later, these are rather hard to find."

McCleaf found a worn, but intact original radio in his in Iowa, so he was able to restore the dimensions of the ash floors.

He has an "H700" key that fits the lock on the tailgate, right door and ignition. In Pennsylvania, he found a rare spare tire wheel for \$5 that is operated by the same key. Early-1942 model trucks and those made throughout the rest of the war had keyless locks and no other locks.

In 1995, McCleaf took the truck apart and spent all his free time for the next three years restoring it. "That's weekends, sick leave and annual vacation leave," he said. "I would recommend it." His wife, Linda, concurs. A replacement T214 block was located in Jersey from a command car to replace the cracked original. McCleaf had hoped to clean up the drivetrain, but then discovered that somebody had driven through a bed. Both differentials were filled with mud. Both sets of ring and pinion were rusted. With the differentials torn, McCleaf replaced the stump-puller with highway gears. "It can probably go 35 mph now," McCleaf said, "but it's still safe at 35 mph."

The radio, reportedly working, was purchased at an Ohio swap meet. The external antenna bracket and bush guard were located in Piscataway, N.J. All four side windows can be partially lowered for ventilation. A 65-pound generator under the engine is necessary to keep the 11x17-inch 12-volt battery charged up to operate both the radio and the radio. Only on the radio truck are ground straps to be found virtually everywhere. The enormous battery, identical to the ones found in modern over-the-tractors, is located in a cabinet on the running board. "It's a two-man job to lift it," McCleaf said.

The truck, like all early military vehicles, was equipped with combat wheels. They were so well made that a flat tire could be fixed in the field. "Unless the tire is deflated first," McCleaf said, "the wheels can burst apart and fly."

The restoration was finished in July 1998, the next month McCleaf took his Dodge to the National Military Vehicle Preservation Association gathering at the Tobbyanna Mill Depot in Pennsylvania. Much to his surprise, his 1942 Dodge Carryall won the award of Show.

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

In 1995, McCleaf took the truck apart and then spent all his free time for the next three years restoring it. "That's weekends, sick leave and annual vacation leave," he said. "I wouldn't recommend it."

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Find a fast car faster.

The screenshot shows the cars.com homepage with a search bar for "Used Cars for Sale". The search parameters are set to "Dodge" and "Viper" with "Contra Costa, CA" as the location. The results table shows 29 cars found, with the first few rows being Dodge Vipers from 1997 to 1999. The table includes columns for Year, Make/Model, Price, Miles, and Distance.

Year	Make/Model	Price	Miles	Distance
1997	Dodge Viper	\$59,500	179	1,691
1997	Dodge Viper	\$59,000	8,000	893
1996	Dodge Viper	\$59,100	11,000	2,370
1997	Dodge Viper	\$60,300	5,261	937
1997	Dodge Viper	\$55,900	86	873
1996	Dodge Viper	\$60,000	10,000	2,267
1995	Dodge Viper	\$60,000	10,000	2,267
1998	Dodge Viper	\$60,000	10,000	2,267

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Bay Area Car Clubs

P.O. Box S
San Rafael, CA 94913
Attn: Tom Graham

Borgward Owners Club

2901 Moorpark Ave., #265
San Jose, CA 95128
408-244-3123
Don Hoskins

Buick Club of America, California Capitol Chapter

Publicity Coordinator: Fran Frates
4767 Bowerwood Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608
916-489-6631

Cadillac Drivers Club

5825 Vista Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824
Attn: Wray Tibbs

California Chrysler Products Club

P.O. Box 2660
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Norm Frey, (510) 886-0931

Meetings: Monthly, at members' homes. Membership: \$15/year.

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enjoyment of Chrysler product cars. Organized meets and tours. Monthly newsletter, the Silver Dome Gazette, with photos, wiring diagrams, specifications, classified ads free to members. Technical advisors help members with restoration projects and club library.

Club Elite

6238 Ralston Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805-1519
Attn.: Mike Ostrov

CSRG (Classic Sports Racing Group)

P.O. Box 825
Danville, CA 94526
Dan Radowicz or James Herlinger
925-736-2823

Monthly board meetings, one annual membership meeting
Four to six races per year

Contemporary Historical Vehicle Association (CHVA)

Dale Galloway, promotion manager
2870 Eden Plains Rd.
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-625-3333.

Open to all cars 1928 to 20 years old. Monthly tours in 24 regions. National tour coming up of the Carolina Coast. Magazine, nationwide emergency support group.

Diablo A's Model A Ford Club

Chapter of Model A Ford Club of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 6125
Concord, CA 94524
Contact: Steve Mick, 925-838-7570, smick@verio.com.

Meetings 8 p.m. third Friday of the month (except December) at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.

Diablo Four Wheelers

Concord, CA
Contact: Steve Mallo, vice president 925-799-1063

Family four-wheeling since 1964. Primarily Jeeps, but all makes of 4WD accepted. Signatory to the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) in Sacramento.

Meetings first Tuesday of every month 7:30 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, Martinez, Pine St. exit off Hwy. 4. Guests are encouraged and welcome.

Diablo Valley Classics

support our Mustang clubs. It's a relationship builder with our biggest fans."

Thirty-five years after the first Mustang rolled off a Ford assembly line in Dearborn, Mich., the original low-cost production muscle car is still going strong. Ford sold 147,000 Mustangs last year, Bollenbacher said. So far this year, Mustang sales are running 30 percent ahead of last year.

Ford hopes to keep this sales momentum rolling through Internet promotions with Sony, Microsoft and toymaker Hasbro Inc.

Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) has created an interactive game that lets car nuts drive a virtual '68 Mustang Fastback and a '99 Mustang GT on the streets of Chicago.

Mustang fans also can hear and buy hit music from each of its 35 years on a new Web site built for Ford by Sony Music Online (www.sonymusic.com). It's called the Mustang Music Lounge.

Other Ford Mustang promotions include: trading cards depicting each year of the Mustang's existence and a special-edition Mustang Monopoly Game by Hasbro.

Joint multimedia Internet promotions represent the next wave in marketing, said Chris Tie, vice president of advertising and partnership marketing for Sony Online Entertainment.

"This is a component of an entertainment network we have so marketers through leading brands can access a wide variety of consumers," she said.

GET IT IN GEAR

If you know of other area clubs, or would like information on starting a new one, write to John Snyder, auto editor, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94691, fax (510) 339-4068 or e-mail jsnyder@cc-times.com. We'll see what we can do about getting the word out.

Attention car clubs: If your group would be interested in guest-writing a features column for our car club page, please contact the editor. Columns must arrive at Hills Newspapers at least one week prior to publication and are subject to editing.

P.O. Box 21514
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 609-7419

For all 1955-1957 Chevrolet cars, trucks and Corvettes. Meetings are usually the first Friday each month at the Contra Costa Water District building off Concord Ave. Main annual event: Annual Classic Get Together at Concord Blvd. Neighborhood Park (Oct. 3 this year).

Diablo Valley Corvette Club

P.O. Box 5824
Concord, CA 94524
Hotline: 925-672-8225
President: Jim Neylan (925) 678-0873

Diablo Valley Mustang Association

President: Mike Weldon
Web site: www.jps/dvma
Meetings: Second Wednesday each month at Fuddrucker's, the Wollows, Diamond Blvd., Concord. Mustangs of all years.

DKW Club of America

260 Santa Margarita Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Attn: Byron Brill

Early Ford V-8 Club of America

P.O. Box 2122
San Leandro, CA 94577
Attn: Dan Wittern

Econoline Organization

15039 Costela Street
San Leandro, CA 94579
Attn: Jay Long

Falcon Club of America, River City Chapter

c/o Mark Milton
610 Kentucky Ave.
Woodland, CA 95695
530-661-3606

Fiero Owners Club of America

Northern California Chapter
2380 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Ford T5 Owners

P.O. Box 669
Livermore, CA 94551-0669

Golden Gate Classic Thunderbird Club

Mike or Rita Press
124 Hollyhock Ct.
Hercules, CA 94547
510-799-0556
E-mail: mprjgrp@hotcoco.inf.net

Meeting/outing: Second Saturday of the month. For those interested in 1955 through 1957 Thunderbirds. Members come from Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

Golden Gate Lotus Club

P.O. Box 117303
Burlingame, CA 94011

Green Flag Driving Association

342 Laurewood Road
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Hispano-Suiza Society

175 St. Germain Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94114

Iso & Bizzarini Owners Club

2025 Drake Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

Italian Car Registry

3305 Valley Vista Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3943
Attn: John deBoer

Jaguar Associate Group (JAG)

Attn: Pat Shasby, Pres.
13560 Howen Dr.
Saratoga, CA 95070-5403
408-867-1265, FAX 408-867-3731
www.jag.org
JAG is a San Francisco Bay Area car club consisting of 300+ owners and individuals who appreciate Jaguar automobiles. The location of meetings changes each month. Newsletter: The JAGazette, Richard H. France, editor, 408-553-3770.

Jewett Owners Club

24005 Clavitter Road
Hayward, CA 94545

Lamborghini Club of America

170 Monte Vista Road
Orinda, CA 94563

Locomobile Society of America

3165 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94115-2412
Attn: Norm Buckhart

Mercury Stray Cats Classic Cougar Automobile Club

Dennis Pierachini, President
P.O. Box 41
Fairfield, CA 94533-0004
E-mail: info@classiccougar.com
Web site: www.classiccougar.com
Dedicated to preservation and enjoyment of classic Cougars, 1967-73.

Meetings: 2 p.m. second Saturday each month, Burger Road, Pleasant Hill. Monthly newsletter with technical tips, calendar of events, reports, flyers from related events, list of establishments for club discounts, want ads and more. Annual car show, fall club outing, technical workshops. Membership \$20/year.

MG Owners' Club (MGOCC)

Correspondence secretary: George Steneberg
9 Pomona Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-525-9125
E-mail: j2george@pacbell.net
Web site: home.pacbell.net/jensten

Meetings: 7 p.m. second Thursday each month, location varies. Activities include tours, rallies, tech sessions, shows, picnics, annual dinner, awards, monthly gatherings at pubs, meetings. Monthly newsletter The Octagon provides free ads for members, technical and helpful articles, humor, and events. Free expert advice on parts, repair, restoration. Vintage racing information available.

Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto Club

P.O. Box 525

Belmont, CA 94002
Attn: Hal Schuette

Military Vehicle Club of California/Military Vehicle Preservation Association

East Bay Contact: Lee Edwards, 925-447-9387.

Monthly swap meets, two statewide rallies. Anyone with an interest in any age and nationality of military vehicles is welcome.

National association: P.O. Box 520378
Independence, MO 64052-0378

816-737-5111

Membership: \$30/year

Mt. Diablo High Performance Chevy Club

4026 Burbank Dr.
Concord, CA 94521
925-827-0851 after 7 p.m.

925-686-2624 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
1992-1999 Corvettes and Camaros. Meetings once a month, schedule varies. Contact: Nancy Henderson.

National Auto Sport Association

P.O. Box 21555
Richmond, CA 94805

Northern California Corvette Association

Sharon Evans, social director, 510-538-8716
www.classiccar.com/clubs/ncca/nccahome.htm

Meetings first Tuesday every month 7:30 p.m. at Castro Valley Women's Club, 18330 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley

Billed as America's oldest Corvette club, incorporated May 9, 1957. Events include autocross, drag races, tours, shows, charitable events. Annual event is Vette Magic, 2-day race event early June.

North American Singer Owners Club

6211 Westwood Way
Oakland, CA 94611
Attn: Jonas Waxman
(510) 339-1556
singer4@aoi.com

Northern California Cruisers

John Louden
P.O. Box 20234
El Sobrante, CA 94802
510-233-0721

Pre-1972 American stock, custom, hot rods. Annual event: Cruisin' in the Sun, benefit car show June 6, 1999 in Napa.

Northern California Kit Car Club

/o Vern Hance, treasurer
3317 Ellesmere Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-938-1442
Web site: www.kitcar.com/nckcc

Organized to promote learning more about cars through sharing information among members. Annual September show. Monthly newsletter. Shows, parades, promotions.

Membership: \$2/month (\$24 each January)

Northern California Model T Ford Club, Inc.

Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America
4100 Alhambra Ave., P.O. Box 1696
Martinez, CA 94553

Meetings second Thursday of the month (except December) at City of Lafayette Recreation Building, 711 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Dues: \$25.

Pacheco, Martinez and Port Costa Sewing Circle, Book

email: Dspielv@aoi.com. call David at 510-849-0961

Western States Corvettes

2321 Falling Water Ct.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Zimmerman Registry

2081 Madeline Court
Los Altos, CA 94024-6725

Attn: Chet & Marlene Zimmerman

Review Society and Street Racing Association

9 Benita Way
Martinez, CA 94553

925-228-1410.

Founded 1985, more than 1,200 members. Club meets irregularly to enjoy their automobiles, automobile business. Promotes Gran Prix racing at grass roots level. No membership restrictions, no dues.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (COSA)

John Saunders

617 Keats Dr.

Vallejo, CA 94591

707-643-3998.

Meetings first Wed. of each month at the Orinda Library at 7:30 p.m.

Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club, Inc.

Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. P.O. Box 2081, Saratoga, CA 95070

Meetings third Friday of the month, 8 p.m., Mairdon Room, 484 N. Winchester, Santa Clara. Membership: \$20.

Santa Clara Valley Thunderbirds

6371 Firefly Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

Shelby American Auto Club

P.O. Box 700789
San Jose, CA 95170

Solid Axle Corvette Club

P.O. Box 2288
N. Highlands, CA 95660

Sorry Safari Touring Society - MGs (SSTS)

Membership: Ben Lenci
719 Wichita Dr.

Fremont, CA 94539

510-651-0808

Meetings: Third Wednesday each month, location varies.

Sports Car Club of America

301 Preston Court
Livermore, CA 94550

Sprite-Midget Owners Group

P.O. Box 3217
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Sunbeam Alpine Club

1752 Oswald Place
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Tri-Valley Classic Chevy Club

Meets 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month at the Livermore Airport. '55-'57 Chevy cars, trucks, Corvettes.

Vintage Mustang Owners Assn.

6371 Firefly Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

Volvo Club of America

email: Dspielv@aoi.com. call David at 510-849-0961

Western States Corvettes

2321 Falling Water Ct.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Zimmerman Registry

2081 Madeline Court
Los Altos, CA 94024-6725

Attn: Chet & Marlene Zimmerman

-Compiled by CCT staff

Ford launches Web site to honor Mustang's 35th

By Mike Brennan

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

DETROIT — Want to drive a virtual Mustang through the streets of Chicago? How about listening to tunes on your PC that were written the first Mustang rolled off the assembly line 35 years ago Saturday?

You can do both on the Internet now that Motor Co. has launched a series of computer tie-ins with Microsoft Corp. and Sony Entertainment to honor the pony car's 35th anniversary.

Joint Internet promotions are the latest marketing wrinkle. Ford hopes to use the Wide Web to woo potential Mustang buyers, particularly the Generation X types who live in cyberspace, said Lon Bollenbacher, specialty vehicle marketing manager.

This weekend, these on-line promotions will be joined by a Mustang love-in that will roll at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina. Expected to be on hand are thousands of members of the Mustang Club of America.

Club members will get to see the limited-edition anniversary edition Mustang GT and V-8 Mustang Cobra R. Ford plans to sell 6,000 GTs and 300 Cobras. Suggested retail prices are about \$24,000 and \$34,000, respectively.

Our efforts this weekend are twofold," Bollenbacher said. "One is to get exposure on the Internet. Plus we want to

support our Mustang clubs. It's a relationship builder with our biggest fans."

Thirty-five years after the first Mustang rolled off a Ford assembly line in Dearborn, Mich., the original low-cost production muscle car is still going strong. Ford sold 147,000 Mustangs last year, Bollenbacher said. So far this year, Mustang sales are running 30 percent ahead of last year.

Ford hopes to keep this sales momentum rolling through Internet promotions with Sony, Microsoft and toymaker Hasbro Inc.

Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) has created an interactive game that lets car nuts drive a virtual '68 Mustang Fastback and a '99

Saab

FROM PAGE B2

A back seat with a 40/60 percent split while foldable is able to withstand any rear end problems because of the body strength.

On a recent ride drive through desert and mountain roads, I had the privilege and good fortune to drive with the Swedish Saab safety engineer Christer Nilsson.

I had first hand safety information, but even better I was egged on to see what the wagon could do.

Up and away

The V6 turbo proved no slouch during acceleration. There was a secure feeling between driver and the road, especially on winding and hilly terrain. Climbing up to an altitude of 7,000 feet proved to be no effort for the V-6.

There was no runaway on the downhill slopes, plus the interior proved to be quiet considering the speed during uphill and downhill driving.

The V-6 produces maximum torque of 229 lb-ft at 2,500 rpm, and 200 hp at 5,000 rpm. This so called eco-power technology designed for Saab turbo engines is sensitive to the environment. It provides performance but has low exhaust emissions, and is fuel-conscious.

The V-6 comes with a standard 4-speed automatic transmission which operates with sport, winter and touring shift pattern.

The four cylinder Saab Wagon has a standard 5-speed manual transmission, with a 4-speed automatic available as an option.

I also drove the 4-speed automatic and found it to be quick on acceleration, providing enough power for quick bursts of speed. On two-lane roads there was no difficulty when passing was an option.

The 4-cylinder powerplant produces 170 hp at 5,500 rpm. Maximum torque is 207 lb-ft at 1,800 rpm. This low engine output provides plenty of power without overextending the engine.

Four wheel disc brakes are standard on all models. The ABS system

"The V-6 comes with a standard 4-speed automatic transmission which operates with a sport, winter and touring shift pattern."

incorporates electronic brake distribution, and on V-6 models an integrated electronic traction system.

Healthy cargo space

Cargo space with the rear seats folded down offers 73 cubic feet. Unique Cargo Tracks and belts that anchor a load securely prevent shifting during quick stops.

A removable folding shelf in the rear acts as a theft deterrent by hiding cargo.

A rubber strip along the bumper prevents damage to the paint when loading and unloading cargo.

Art!

Dog lovers will appreciate the Batzi Belt. It is designed to provide pets with a safety restraint but still allows freedom of movement in the cargo area. This three-point safety belt is available in three sizes.

A demonstration in the desert of this apparatus was provided by a large Akita breed of dog. The United States Humane Society receives a portion of proceeds from Saab pet gear sales.

Saab's goals are improving brand loyalty and attracting new customers into the showroom. There's a new approach with TV advertising and print media. Perhaps its unusual approach will make you put on your thinking cap.

One thing is for sure: consumers have a universe of choices, and Saab is determined to rise above the fray and get their attention.

Women

FROM PAGE B1

ering by taking your car in first for a minor repair or routine maintenance job, such as an oil change or tire rotation.

Is the shop reasonably organized and clean? Does it look like it was stirred with a large spoon? Does it have computerized diagnostic tools? Or is the technician equipped with a large wrench, rusty screwdriver and little else?

A shop doesn't have to look like a hangar out of Star Wars, but it must have modern engine analyzing equipment and the up-to-date man-

uals needed to work on your computerized car. A good shop should be willing to discuss its equipment and show you how it works.

Does your shop use technical service bulletins

Any repair shop worth its salt should also be able to access Technical Service Bulletins, commonly called TSB. Over 6,000 of these up-to-date fixes for difficult to diagnose problems are issued by the vehicle manufacturers every year.

Without access to these insider information, technicians may be forced to "throw parts" at your car; not knowing what's wrong, they keep replacing parts (at your expense) until they finally, maybe, possibly, eventually, by serendipity, get the correct one!

Do they guarantee their work?

And finally, is their work guaranteed? A common practice is to guarantee work for at least 90 days. Avoid at all costs the "property line guarantee". That's the one that guarantees after the repairs have been completed, you get to the end of their property line and they guarantee they never want to see you again! An authentic guarantee promises if the job is not done right the first time, they will do their best to correct the problem.

Develop rapport on repairs

The most important consideration in choosing a repair shop is not equipment, but attitude. Your visit

should leave you feeling listened to and comforted, way you were treated.

If you and your technician establish rapport on repairs, then you will make a mistake of restricting your those shops closest to your workplace. A shop with distance is a great concern, should your car break down. Near-Your-House-Fix-it does job right, you could find your long, long way from home.

Mary Jackson is the author of "Smarts," published by the National Publications. For more information visit www.wheel.com.

Auto doc

FROM PAGE B3

grammed to raise the idle speed to compensate for the load of the a/c compressor just like when you place the car in gear. For the engine to stall, the curb idle speed is set too low, or the computer is not able to raise the idle speed up, or the a/c compressor may have a problem and is putting too much of a load on the engine. Any good repair shop should be able to hook up a scan tool and actually watch the events as the defroster is turned on.

Should I change the oil?

Dear Doctor: Recently, I purchased a 1989 Oldsmobile Delta with only 15,000 miles from a neighbor.

The car has not been driven for a while, nor has the oil been changed. A friend told me not to change the oil until I have driven it for a month or so. What do you think? Jerry

Dear Jerry: The low mileage is a plus, however, get the oil changed as soon as you get the car on the road, and again after 1,500 miles to get all the acid buildup out of the crank case. You may want to think about a complete checkup and change all fluids, including the brake and power steering fluid.

Does tire size matter?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Toyota Celica GTS which was originally equipped with 215/50R15 tires. The tire life is about 30,000 miles, with an average cost ranging from \$135 to \$189 per tire. At 145,000 miles, all four tires needed to be replaced. I

would like to change the tire size to 205/60R15, and realize a great cost savings. I am a conservative driver. One tire shop did not recommend the size change, but another did. Would the size change present any problems? Deborah

Dear Deborah: The 205/60R15 tire size has almost the same outside diameter and will not cause any computer or speedometer problems. In fact, your Celica will ride smoother because of the larger side wall. On the down side, the car will not handle as well with the 60 series. (I know I will get negative letters on this answer.) I would say to make the size change as long as there are no clearance issues. You can even go with a low speed rating to save even more money.

Hot starts a hassle

Dear Doctor: I own a 1951 Ply-

mouth that starts up fine, but not when the engine is cold. Can you help? Val

Dear Val: Old car or new, operate on the same principle. Older vehicles had very small motors and required high voltage conditions to start the engine over when hot. Until most people think, it takes more energy to crank over a cold engine than a cold one. A cold engine is the worst enemy of heat and cold. Have the shop check under a load test, new starter draw and all components. You need a new battery, an inexpensive one. Then where a lot of people are poor and dollar foolish.

MOTOR MART

TRANSPORTATION

101 Autos

ACURA 1998 Integra LS, loaded, exec condition 59K, \$15,000. 510-521-5817

BMW 1994 530 IT loaded, heated seats, leather, #9-0229, \$22,800. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

BMW 1978 320i, 4-sp, S/R, all original, garaged, 129K miles, maintained, \$3200. 510-527-3868

CADILLAC 1976 Seville, showroom condition, 54K original miles, garaged, extras, \$5,000. Serious Inquiries only! 510-532-4844

CADILLAC 1977 Seville, White 4-door, 75,000 miles, \$4,000. Must see! 510-526-4452

CADILLAC 1999 DEVILLE Loaded, low miles, Save \$55, #717731, \$29,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

CADILLAC 1998 CATERA Loaded, low miles, #189544, \$27,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

CHEVROLET 1994 Suburban, 4WD, all leather, 58K miles, Immaculate, \$20,775. 510-531-7659 after 7pm

CHEVY 1999 TAHOE LS, 4x4, CD, Pwr seat, 12K miles, #385072, \$29,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

FORD '92 Explorer XLT, 4WD, 5-speed, 32K, power, cruise control \$10,500. Excellent condition. Call 510-451-6949

FORD 1989 Taurus. Excellent. New engine/ transmission/ brakes. Loaded. Alloys. Book \$5000, selling \$3000. 510-433-4701

FORD 1988 RANGER XLT Super-Cab, PS, AC, tilt, CO, AM/FM, Cass, shell-cap, 5-spd, \$3100/ob/o. 510-749-9287

HONDA'S FROM \$500. Police Impounds, Tax Refos. For listings, call 1-800-319-3223 ext 2714.

HONDA 1991 Civic XL, very clean, low mileage, \$8,200. 510-527-164

HONDA 1986 Civic Wagon, 5-sp, 4-WD, 113K, orig owner, runs well, body okay \$2000. 510-652-8418

101 Autos

SELL YOUR CAR FOR JUST \$21!

We'll run your advertisement for one week, for JUST \$21! If your car doesn't sell, we'll run your 2nd week at NO CHARGE!

We sell results! Place your ad today! Call Classified 339-8777!

TOYOTA '94 CAMRY XLE, 6 cyl, 4x4, loaded, ABS, CD, moonroof, silvers, 64K miles \$13,412. 510-428-2968

TOYOTA '91 CAMRY DX, Wgn, A/T, all pwr, recent serv., 79K, exc. cond. \$7,995. 510-247-8785

TOYOTA '94 CHEROKEE 6 cyl, 4x4, loaded, under 60K miles \$10,500. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

TOYOTA '94 WRANGLER 4.0, Islander Edition, #550096, \$10,850. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

MAZDA 1990 RX7 Black convertible, loaded. #713055, \$8,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

MERCEDES 1993 190e 2.3 75K, white, perfect, garaged, all records, \$15,500/ BO. 510-644-0346

NISSAN 1998 MAXIMA GLE, Leather, #400857, \$12,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

PONTIAC 1997 KING CAB Roof, bed liner, AC very clean. #003266, \$4,995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

OLDS 1993 CUTLASS-4 Door Clean -90K. Need Trans work. \$5,000. 510-485-4822 after 2pm

PONTIAC 1997 Grand Prix. Exc. condition. Book value \$18,100. First \$17,750 takes it. 510-339-6225.

101 Autos

SELL YOUR CAR FOR JUST \$21!

VOLVO 1986 240DL White/Burgundy, AT, AC, Rock, 3rd-seat, hatch, snow tires/wheels, 70K, \$4,900. 510-444-1014

VOLVO 1979 245 Wagon, 5-sp, orig. owner, \$1400/ obo. All records. Solid family car. 510-843-2432

VW 1990 JETTA Wolfsburg Edition, low miles. Roof. #614874, \$5995. Used Car Superstore 1-800-830-5311

VW 1986 VANAGON Syncro Wagon, California Weekender, 129K, new clutch, brakes, exc. condition, look! \$11,000. 510-465-4691

VW 1971 Fastback - light blue, looks and runs great \$2,500. (messag e) 510-523-8302

TOYOTA '94 COROLLA DX, 175K, auto, A/C, excellent condition, 1 owner, \$2155. Call 510-339-6137

TOYOTA 1994 COROLLA, 4-dr, 13K miles, no A/C, mint condition. \$8,300/ obo. 510-232-4008

TOYOTA 1991 PICKUP 1/2 ton, 47K miles, 5-sp, good condition, orig. owner. \$4500. 510-846-4933

105 Recreation Vehicles

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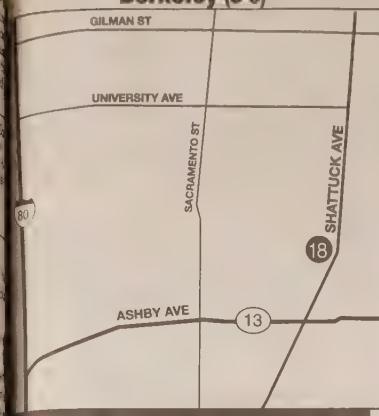
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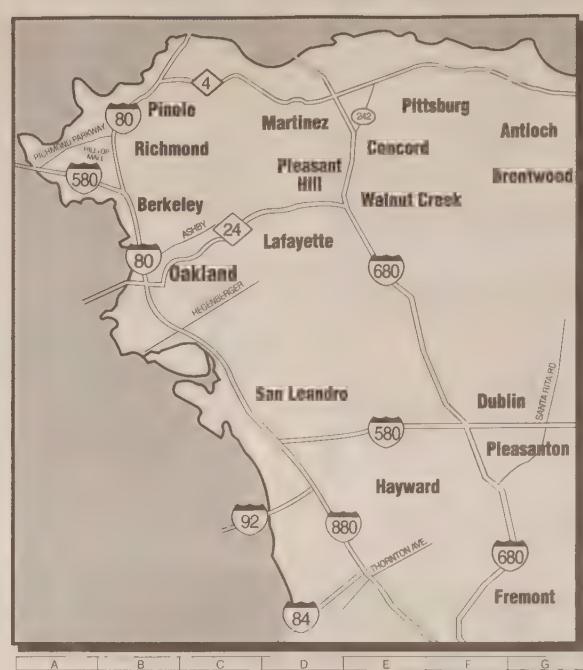
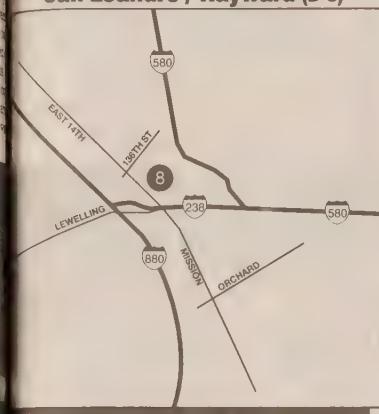
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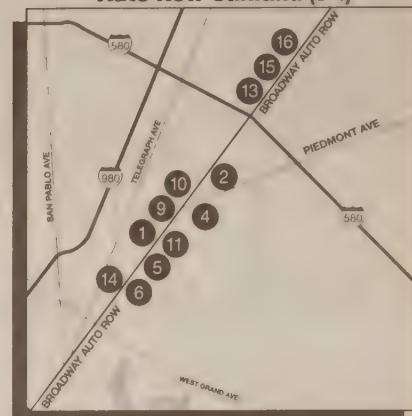
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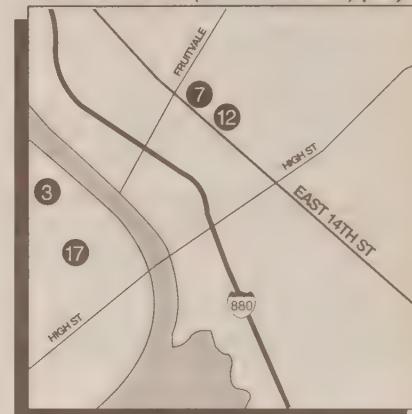
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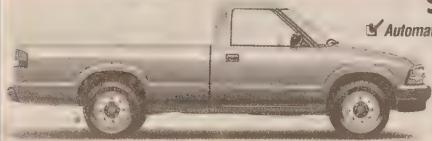
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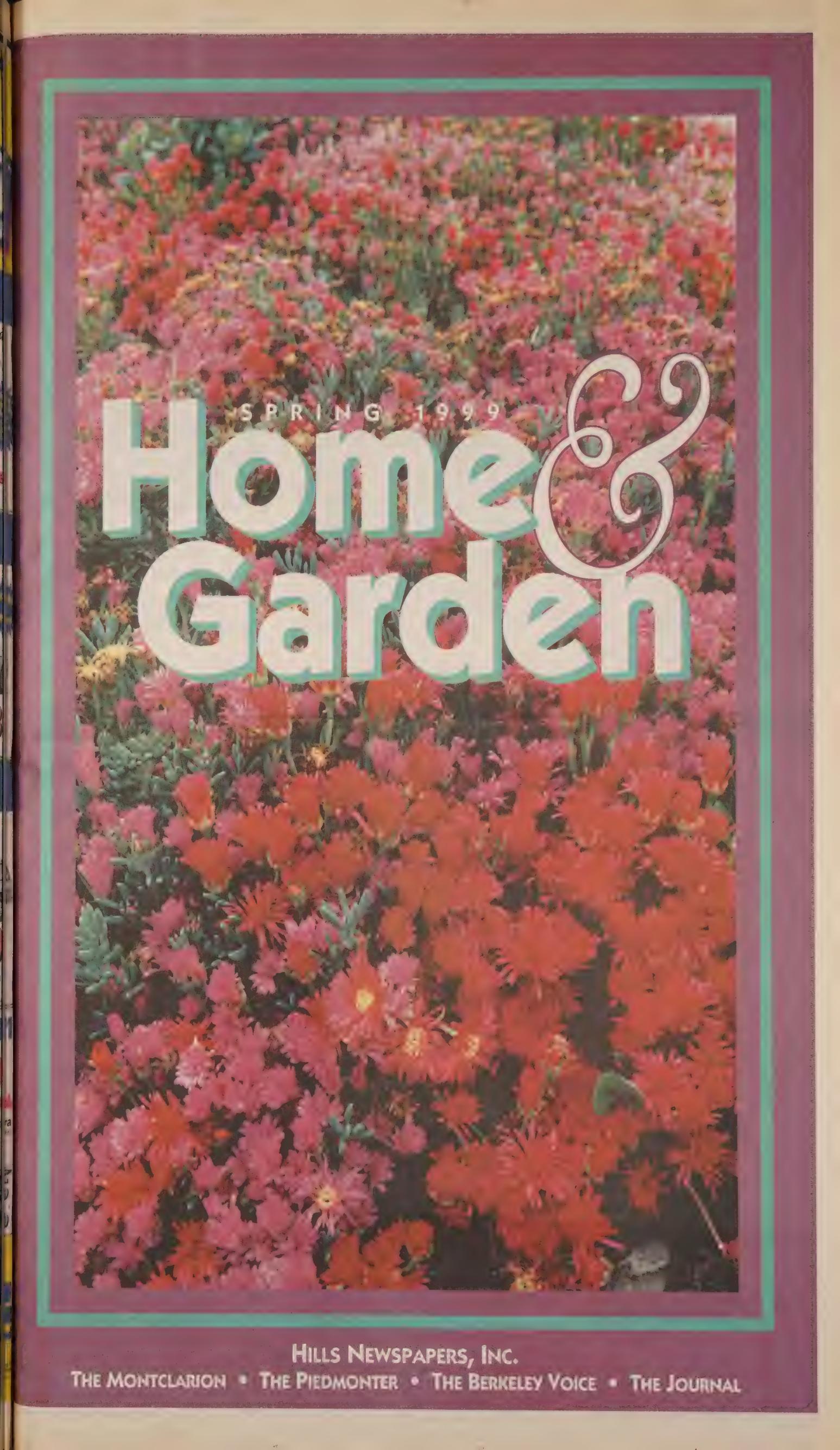
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SPRING 1999

Home & Garden

HILLS NEWSPAPERS, INC.
THE MONTCLARION • THE PIEDMONTER • THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL

Recycled furnishings take on new life

By Mary Jo Farrell
CCN STAFF WRITER

"Until materials are made into new products, they are not really recycled. Your trash is just tidily separated. Recycling won't work unless those products are purchased regularly." — from WorldWide, San Rafael developer and distributor of environmentally responsible products.

Bill Baldewicz of rural Sebastopol spends his days this time of year pruning his apple, peach, pear and cherry trees, picking up downed branches and squirreling the sticks away into one of his overstuffed drying sheds for a couple of years.

After the yardwork is done, he meanders around to estate sales and auctions, buying up old moldings, trim pieces, broken tables, chairs and bureaus, and reselling pickets and posts from the kindling pile. He occasionally salvages old fruit or ammunition crates, as well.

And then he transforms his discoveries into one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture.

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He has crafted TV cabinets from old doors and side chairs from abandoned, mismatched golf clubs — metal shafts, not hickory.

"Golf clubs are surprisingly strong," he said. "They also have an interesting flex and 'give' when you sit on them."

When the sticks and scrap pieces have old paint or stain, he preserves the original hues, just cleaning them up a bit. "Nobody wants the old dirt," he said, "just the old colors."

Baldewicz is one of a growing number of Bay Area craftspeople who fabricate unique, useful home furnishings from recycled materials. His work is commissioned by designer Agnes Bourne in the San Francisco Design Center, architect Maria McVanish in San Francisco, and others.

Before devoting himself to furniture making, Baldewicz was a chemical and nuclear engineer whose hobbies were sculpting and photography. His chemistry background led to a unique furniture finish: his signature treatment involves applying emulsions of old family photos directly onto the surface of the furniture, in effect making the wood or glass itself the photographic paper.

"I like to use old cabinet doors and drawer fronts for portraits," he said, "because the shape of the piece forms a natural frame."

Among his projects over the past decade, his commissioned pieces have included home entertainment centers, bookcases, and chairs. Most have found homes with architects and designers up and down the Peninsula, and all use woods mostly indigenous to Northern California.

A distinctive look

Surprised to learn that recycled furniture can be both beautiful and exclusive? It's no wonder. Most of us think of furniture recycling as Grandma Winnie's antique Morris chair finding its way into our first grown-up apartment after college.

While that certainly qualifies as reusing, area designers report more and more upscale buyers looking for distinctive, local art objects made from materials with a distinct Northern California character shining through.

The trend is both artist- and consumer-driven. Many Bay area residents are also active recyclers of household and office consumable goods, and are now extending that philosophy to durable goods and major purchases as well.

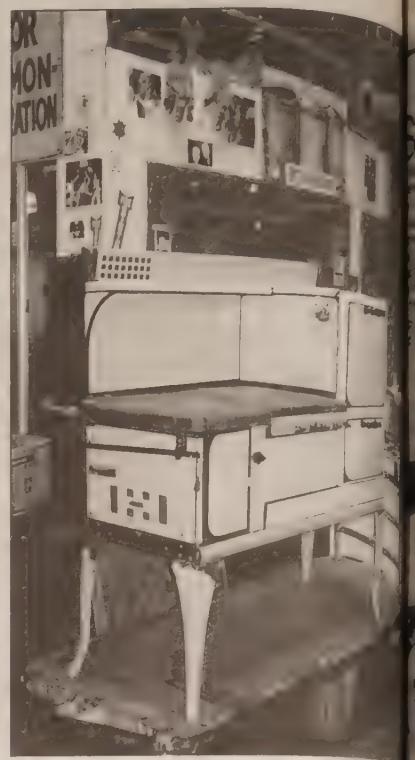
Recycling serves several valuable purposes, according to David Pearson, author of "The Natural House Catalog: Everything You Need to Create an Environmentally Friendly Home." It conserves space in landfills. It spares natural resources that would otherwise be expended creating new items. It keeps materials in one region from having to be transported to other areas to be disposed of or consumed.

Cassandra Adams, of the architecture department at UC-Berkeley, talks about recycled pieces' "embodied energy," the total energy expended in extracting raw materials, production and transportation.

Recycled furniture making is popular enough that at least one area newsletter caters to its practitioners: the "Recycled Materials Newsletter for Bay Area Builders" keeps woodworkers up to speed on estate sales, auctions, salvage projects, and suppliers in this part of the state. Editor Paul Gardner of Palo Alto tracks components and entire pieces of furniture in his construction-trade travels.

Not all recycled-content furniture is crafted of wood, though. Have you ever wondered what happens to obsolete computer components? At least one San Francisco firm, Fossil Faux, embeds bits and pieces of mother boards, memory chips and resistors into resin slabs for tables, chairs and room divider screens. They also sell a line of door hardware and drawer pulls made of their resin-fossilized components.

See RECYCLED, Page 5



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Home & Garden

Home 'staging' experts spruce up properties in order to sell them

Selling a home can be as stressful as buying one. Though in today's market, in which houses sell as fast as flowers on Valentine's Day, it is still crucial to show your home at its best. Many real estate agents hire a "stager" when selling a house, an expert who is the equivalent of a make-over. Yet others agents take pleasure in the creative process of staging a house and making it more pleasing to the eye. One such person is Colleen Larkin, a very successful real estate agent with Carroll Properties in Berkeley. With a background in theater and art, this 15-year veteran can see things that others might not and is famous for her special touch. Larkin is so good at what she does that once, after preparing a house for market, the seller decided she didn't want to move after all. "You do a good job," a colleague remarked. The house eventually did go up for sale: Offers were made the same day the house went on the market, fortunately, the owner didn't make a bid.

What follows is a list of some of the things that can be done to make a house nearly irresistible. Though she wouldn't share all of her secrets, as an agent/artist Larkin enjoys talking about her work and is very empathetic with those who are either selling or buying a home.

- Give potential buyers a sense of proportion. Most people tend to fill a house to the gills in the course of years, and it is important to try to create space so people can imagine what their belongings will look like there.
- Pack up both little and big things since you are going to move eventually anyway. This applies to both furniture and knicknacks. Keep what you really need, but remember you are showing the house, not your belongings.
- Buyers need the opportunity to get a true sense of architecture and floor space. People want to be able to see where the floor meets a wall. They need to be able to see an arch, for example, and the ceiling height, not all the things that are layered up to the top of it. Usually less is best.

- Clear off surface space. The general rule is no more than two or three knickknacks on any surface, including desks, mantles, and chest-of-drawers.
- Let the sun shine in. Take down dark drapes, keep the curtains open and have your windows cleaned professionally.
- Make certain there is a clear pathway through the house and plenty of room. When a house is being shown, there will be a lot of people there which may create the sense that the house is small. Again, move furniture around or put pieces into storage to make certain there's plenty of open space so people can really feel the house.
- Potential buyers will want to see how much room there is in a closet. Remove hat boxes, clothes and shoes you rarely use, winter coats and jackets, sleeping bags stored there, etc.

See STAGING, Page 7

Antiques



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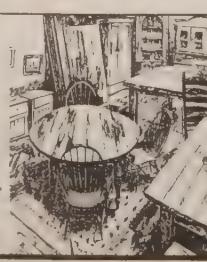
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Recycled

FROM PAGE 2

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Spurred in part by government procurement guidelines specifying percentages of recycled materials for federal properties (such as military housing), many suppliers have sprung up for other home furnishings, as well. Some other recycled-material furnishings:

■ **Futon filling:** polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the principal ingredient in plastic soda bottles, can be spun into a lustrous, durable fiber for use in futon stuffing, carpet, and padding. It requires no further petrochemical agents to turn it into fiber, and it's a great alternative filling for people allergic to other natural fibers used in plush stuffing. It can also be recycled again after a life cycle as carpet or bedding. Futons are sold by catalog from Rising Star, Bend Oregon: 800-828-6711.

■ **Carpet padding and carpet:** heavy duty carpet pad and colorful floor tile can be made from 100 percent post-consumer tire rubber. A line of 100 percent post-consumer carpet is made by Image carpet. It's available locally by special order through McCurley's Floor Covering in San Ramon, among others. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency specifies that to be called recycled, carpet must include at least 25 percent post-consumer materials, according to Pearson.)

■ **Fine wood furniture:** Exotic hardwoods from old African railroad ties are used to make attractive furniture. Exotic woods used in pallets and shipping crates become fine storage, seating, and display pieces, such as those crafted by Berkeley furniture maker John Levine, who displays work at Tercera Galleries in Palo Alto and Los Gatos, and at Misugi in Berkeley.

■ **Indoor and patio furniture:** Picnic tables, benches, and storage bins fabricated from recycled milk jugs (HDPE) mixed with compressed sawdust come in several colors and never need painting, sanding, or staining. Cost is somewhat more than solid wood designs: an Adirondack-style deck chair and footstool are \$279 in HDPE from Ecologic, Inc.'s price list, compared with the \$230 L.L. Bean gets for their solid wood version.

■ **Storage:** Strong, sturdy plant shelves that slot together in minutes come from recycled aluminum cans and glass bottles. They're among several new home furnishings made of recycled paper, glass and aluminum sold by Design Ideas in Springfield, Illinois, and are available in Northern California at Crate and Barrel and Pottery Barn.

■ **Floor tile:** Scrap pieces of used stone, glass and ceramic tiles are pressed into mosaic-look new tiles. One supplier of simulated marble and recycled stone content flooring is Pacific Strategies, Washington, DC, 202-828-2435.

If you're interested in being a green consumer, you can verify claims of recycled content, biodegradability and energy efficiency. Look for the stamp of Scientific Certification Systems of Oakland, which certifies such things.

It can sometimes be difficult to track down artisans working in recycled contexts. Janet Nanan, showroom manager at Agnes Bourne in the Design Center, said the Center doesn't maintain a directory. But by asking your designer or architect, you may be able to locate an artist working in just the right medium for your home, she said.

Agnes Bourne maintains portfolios

of Baldewicz's and others' works for you to browse through. Nanan also can recommend a half-dozen or so "eco-aware" groups with helpful publications, primarily for locating suppliers of raw materials, not finished pieces.

Other good sources for finding craftspeople are local design competitions and art shows, such as California Design 2000, a competition featuring some of the area's finest artists and designers, from November 14 through January 5. It's sponsored by the California Contemporary Craft Association, which used to be called the Baileines Crafts Guild in the '50s and '60s. Participants are already at work on their entries, even though the show is nearly a year away, according to Baldewicz. He's already going through his sheds and selecting inspiring used woods to start his new design.

"The old wood people used to build California, the redwoods and Douglas firs — we're very lucky," he said. "It'll last forever. Redwood isn't just silvery and

lovely, it's also among the most stable of woods."

Resources

• Baldewicz (ball-DAY-vich), Bill. Sebastopol, 707-823-3946. Makes furniture from found wood, old furniture. Photo emulsion finishes.

• Bourne, Agnes, Interior Design. Showplace 220, San Francisco Design Center, 2 Henry Adams St., San Francisco, 94103, 415-626-6883. High-end collections of modern classic pieces.

• Design Ideas, Springfield, Illinois, 800-426-6394. Catalog of home furniture and accessories made from recycled paper, glass and aluminum. Local retailers available.

• EcoLogic, Inc., 1140 Elizabeth Ave., Waukegan IL, 60085, 800-899-8004. Interior and outdoor furniture made from EcoLumber, an extruded material made of recycled HDPE milk bottles.

• Northern California Recycling Association, 510-558-0991.



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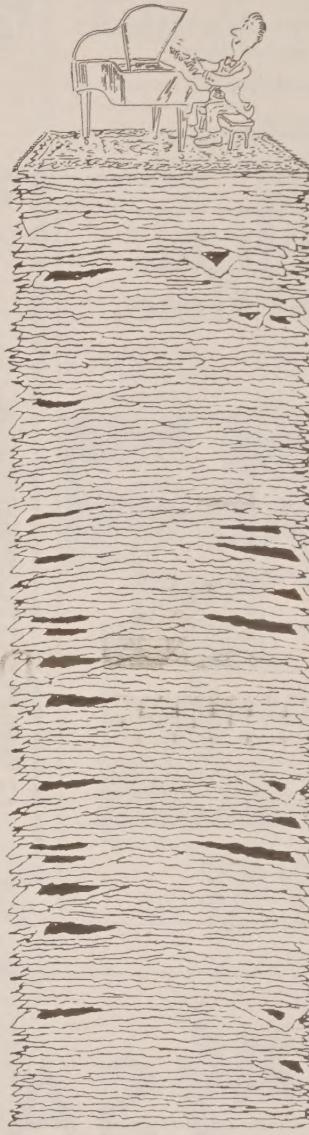
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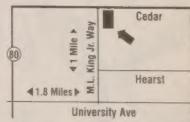
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Thick pile, New Zealand wool, Tabriz weave with Heinrich design. Made in Iran. 8'0" x 9'8" #C-1644

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Wool foundation and pile: Afghan Dowlatabad with Tekke medallions. 9'9" x 11'10" #Z-1426

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Kitchen, yard waste nets garden power

By Denise M. Alfieri
CORRESPONDENT

Have you hugged a tree today? Don't worry, neither have most people. But you don't have to chain yourself to a redwood to do something good for the environment, any more than you have to be Martha Stewart to have a pretty garden.

If you spend as little as 15 minutes a day composting your yard and kitchen waste, you're not only doing your bit to save your planet, you're also generating

Composting minutes a day lands results

a product that's going to make your flowers bloom like they never have before.

Composting is one of those things that everybody's probably heard about, but not everybody does — mostly because they don't know how easy it is to do, how good they're going to feel when they know they're doing something positive for the environment, and how much they're going to benefit from it.

We all have the ingredients for com-

posting. We all have fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, grass clippings and young weeds. We also have tea bags or coffee grounds, too. Most of us either bag these things and lug them to the curb or hire a gardener to put them in green cans that the men in trucks take away.

Where they go after that, most of us neither know nor care. We're rid of them, and we rest secure in the knowledge that they're being recycled somehow so were not being bad guys. But according to Kevin Caruncho, administrative analyst for the city of San Ramon, 25 to 30 percent of organic waste — the stuff you'd use for composting — is going into landfills. And space is filling up fast on those landfills.

Want some other good reasons to compost? According to the University of Virginia Cooperative Extension, mature compost improves soil structure, reduces the need to fertilize with chemicals that end up in our creeks, rivers and streams, increases the ease of cultivation, improves root growth and yield, improves water infiltration and drought tolerance, protects plants from disease, prevents erosion of embankments, roadsides and hillsides and degrades many pesticides. So it's a good idea.

But were busy people. We don't have time to fuss with compost piles in our yards. And we don't want some smelly mess out there for our dogs to tramp through.

Well, guess what? You don't need much time, your dogs aren't going to tramp through it, and it has no more than a good earthy odor if you've done it right.

Types of composters

How do you start? The easiest way is with a compost bin. There are four types you can build yourself: snow fence bins, woven wire bins, block or brick bins and wooden bins.

■ **A Snowfence bin.** To build a snowfence bin, which is simple to make and easy to move and store, just buy the appropriate length of prefabricated fencing and fasten two-by-fours as corner posts to the bottom to form a square.

■ **A woven wire bin.** Requires only a length of woven wire fencing. Multiply the diameter you want for the compost heap by 3.2 for the length of fencing to purchase. Fasten the ends with wire or three or four small chain snaps, available at any hardware store, to make a circle.

■ **Block or brick bins.** Compost bins can be made with bricks, cement blocks or rocks. Just lay the blocks without mortar. Leave spaces between each block to permit aeration. Pile them up to form three sides of a square container or a three-bin unit. This bin is sturdy, durable and easily accessible.

■ **A covered wooden bin.** Allows convenient protection from pests and heavy rains. Construct bins with removable fronts or sides so that material

can be added and removed. ■ **A covered wooden bin.** Allows convenient protection from pests and heavy rains. Construct bins with removable fronts or sides so that material

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Want to learn more about how to set up your own compost bin or make little hand-holding for the process? The program will be 35 free workshops this year, last about two hours, and are held evenings and weekends in Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda and Berkeley. For details or additional information, contact Carr at 925-906-1806.

Contact the Recycling Hotline at 750-4096, then press 2, or 925-1225 for information about composting programs in Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and for areas in North and Contra Costa County. In West Contra Costa County contact the West Contra Costa County Integrated Waste Management Authority Composting Program at 510-215-3021. In Alameda County, call the Home Composting Information Hotline at 510-444-SOIL.

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As Caruncho says, "We're trying to dispose of these things anyway, so we do them in a way that helps our environment at the same time."

Want to learn more about how to set up your own compost bin or make little hand-holding for the process? The program will be 35 free workshops this year, last about two hours, and are held evenings and weekends in Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda and Berkeley. For details or additional information, contact Carr at 925-906-1806.

Contact the Recycling Hotline at 750-4096, then press 2, or 925-1225 for information about composting programs in Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and for areas in North and Contra Costa County. In West Contra Costa

Get back to nature with a back yard organic garden

By James Carter

Creating a garden can be one of the most relaxing and rewarding experiences one can experience at home. Getting outside in the fresh air, putting your hands into the earth, planting flowers or vegetables and tending them as they grow — for many, it is a spiritual experience. It can be a source of fresh produce. There's nothing quite like a hand-picked head of lettuce plucked from your back yard.

So why would anyone want to poison their garden?

A growing number of people are asking that question and turning to organic gardening in order to protect their family's health as well as that of the planet. Statistics suggest that farmers using chemicals have a much higher risk of developing certain types of cancer than those that do not. Yet there are more pesticides washed into rivers, lakes and the ocean from urban properties than from farms. In the Bay Area, this has created a disaster in creeks, rivers and the bay. Chemical herbicides and fertilizers also pose a severe hazard to the environment. Why not consider the option of organic gardening? Though it is more labor-intensive than using chemicals, the rewards are great. And think about it: it is really a bad thing to spend a bit more time in the back yard?

Any resources available

There are hundreds of books and magazines available on the subject sold in nurseries, garden shops and bookstores. All provide alternatives to chemicals. All provide alternatives to chemicals.

What follows are some tips about organic gardening suggested by Robert Schildgen who frequently writes and speaks about the subject. He also practices what he preaches.

Eliminating common insect pests

There are hundreds of different methods used to eliminate pests that can damage or even destroy a garden.

Companion planting is one such method. For example, if you plant beets next to cabbages, the aroma of beets chase away cabbage worms.

Radishes and sage are also known for repelling harmful insects. Growing garlic in your garden can have beneficial



Friends Annette Min and David Hunn work to rehabilitate Oak Park in Berkeley. With garden implements in hand, they have found a fine excuse to get out in the sun and fresh air.

called parasitic wasps lay eggs inside destructive insects which results in a healthy offspring at the expense of the pest.

A product called tangle foot can be applied around the base of a tree to prevent infestation. Many ants carry aphids to trees and other plants, and tangle foot — a non-toxic sticky substance — traps ants and prevents them from delivering their cargo.

Other important practices

Properly water your garden (during the spring and summer months) yet avoid overwatering.

Instead of using chemical fertilizers, fish emulsion works extremely well, providing needed nutrients. Fish emulsion products are available at most nurseries and garden stores and, when combined with proper watering, help to keep plants healthy so that they can resist infestations. Organic fertilizers are also available.

Snails

Snail pellets or poison are some of the most toxic products on the market. They pose a threat to the environment, young children, many species of birds and some animals. There are many natural methods to eliminate snails.

One of the most common techniques is to fill the lid of a jar with beer and leave it overnight at ground level. Snails are very fond of beer and will climb in and drown in the brew.

Snails are not fond of copper for some reason. Strips can be placed around beds and the snails simply will not cross them. The same is true of sawdust and ashes, though if using ashes, be certain they are not from magazines that have been tossed into the fireplace (colored paper often contains heavy metals). The only disadvantage of sawdust and ashes is that a gardener needs to constantly replace the guard rails as they tend to be absorbed into the soil.

Snails are quite fond of young seedlings — more so than many Frenchmen are of escargot. Take a plastic bottle, punch small holes in it and cover the seedlings until they have had a chance to grow.

Schildgen suggests the most tried-and-true method is to wait until eight in the evening, take a flashlight and check your garden for snails, plucking them off of plants and killing the voracious creatures. For the truly devoted, a miner-hat

effects as well.

Repel insects the natural way: Mash up fresh garlic, mix with water and spray it on plants. The same can be done with cayenne pepper.

Rotating crops helps to keep a garden healthy by preventing pests from having the opportunity to gain a foothold there.

Many species of insects are beneficial to gardens as they are the natural

enemies of pests. Such creatures include ladybugs and the praying mantis. Again, they can be found at many nurseries or even over the Internet.

Most nurseries carry a product called *pesti bacillus thuringiensis* as well, a naturally-occurring bacteria that does no harm to humans but will kill many pests.

A type of tiny, non-stinging wasp

will draw a potential buyer's eyes to the back of the lot so they can see how large the yard really is. Make certain the front yard is well kept and highlight it with flowers.

If you have children, it is important to involve them in the process of packing away many of their things. Let them pick out their 10 favorite toys, books, and stuffed animals.

In the back yard, clear out weeds and debris, and plant colorful flowers especially in the back of the yard: This

will draw a potential buyer's eyes to the back of the lot so they can see how large the yard really is. Make certain the front yard is well kept and highlight it with flowers.

Clear out basements and attics as much as possible.

Remember you are going to have

to pack up your belongings eventually anyway, so go ahead and get a lot of it done now. Put the boxes in storage so that when you move into your new house, most of your belongings will be packed up and ready to go.

Remember the keys: light, color and space.

type flashlight works best. After a week or two, gardeners will get a pretty good hold on snails and see good results.

Other tips

Pull weeds from your garden regularly rather than use herbicides.

Consider composting. There are many different methods used in composting, an endeavor Schildgen calls "a religious activity because you are quite literally creating soil." There are many specially designed bins that can be used, some that are free. Dozens of books are

available that outline the many approaches available. The main thing to avoid is using any type of animal products in composting as they may attract rodents.

Finally, consider joining an organic gardening club. There you will learn new techniques, and may even exchange products, plants, and seeds. Who knows, you might even invite a few folks over for a garden party one warm summer evening.

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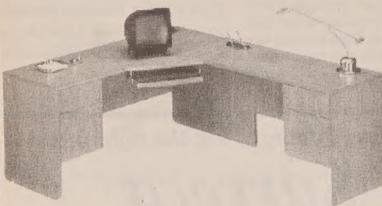
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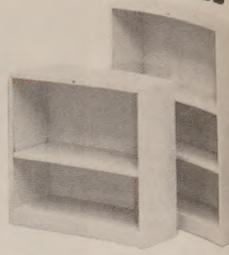


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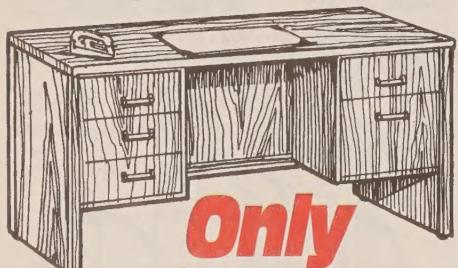
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